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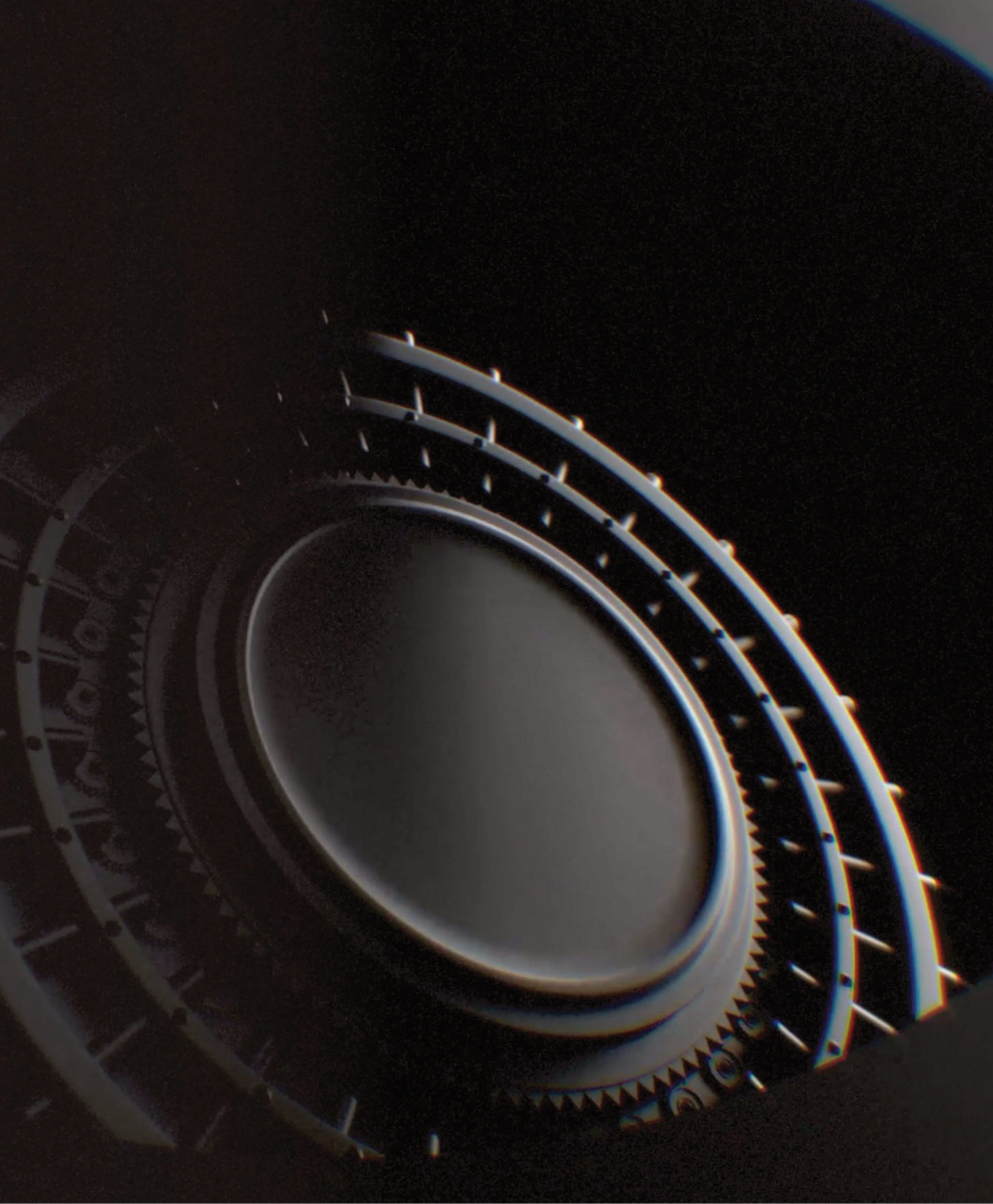

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CONTRIBUTING ILLUSTRATORS
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Adam Fox
VICE PRESIDENT, INTERNATIONAL SALES & PARTNERSHIPS
+44.7505.153984, AFOX@ROBBREPORT.COM

Danya Gerstein
VICE PRESIDENT, BRAND PARTNERSHIPS
DANYAG@ROBBREPORT.COM

Emma Jenks-Daly
VICE PRESIDENT, MARKETING
EJENKSDALY@ROBBREPORT.COM

ADVERTISING SALES
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KRISTIE NILSSON | REAL ESTATE
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317.413.6429, JRUSSELL@ROBBREPORT.COM
LUCIANO BERNARDINI DE PACE | ITALY
+39.02.2316.4148, BERARDINI@BERARDINI.IT
ALEXANDRA YOUNG | MIDDLE EAST
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Robb Report© ISSN-0279-1447 is published monthly except in January and July; a total of 10 issues, two of which count as double issues, by Robb Report Media, LLC, 11175 Santa Monica Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90025. Periodicals postage paid at Los Angeles, Calif., and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to ROBB REPORT SUBSCRIPTION DEPARTMENT, P.O. Box 37943, Boone, IA 50037-0943. Canada Post International Publications Mail (Canadian distribution) Sales Agreement No. 0560502. Copyright © 2024 by ROBB REPORT, a Robb Report Media, LLC, publication. All rights reserved. Volume 48, number 5, June/July 2024. Reproduction in whole or in part or storage in any data-retrieval system or any transmission by any means therefrom without prior written permission is prohibited. ROBB REPORT ® and LUXURY WITHOUT COMPROMISE™ are trademarks of Robb Report Media, LLC. For subscription information, call 212.764.9120 (U.S.) or +1.386.246.0137 (international), or email customerservice@robbreport.com.

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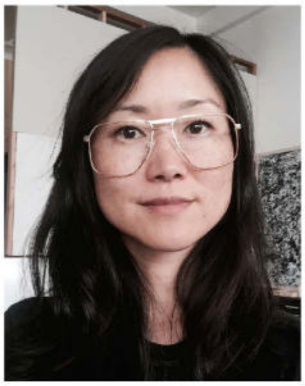
Julie Boatman

An aviation strategist and writer for more than 30 years, Boatman put her aerospace expertise to the test while co-authoring this year's wings coverage (p. 263). "The wide range of personal aircraft that includes cutting-edge safety and convenience features, now available at approachable price points, presents an enormous value that we haven't seen come into fruition in a couple of decades," she explains. "And the light airplanes showing off electric and hybrid tech indicate that trend will only continue as people look for connectivity in all aspects of their lives."

Jonah Flicker

Flicker is a freelance writer and whiskey critic. In whittling down the winners of this year's spirits category, one bottle stood out as a favorite (p. 227). "Whiskey fans have been asking for an older version of Maker's Mark for years, and with the new Cellar Aged, it finally arrived," he says. "This is a really excellent version of what is normally a pretty humble but high-quality bourbon, much older than the core expression but not overly tannic or oaky."



Zen Sekizawa

Born and raised in Los Angeles, Sekizawa has been working as a photographer, director, and artist for over two decades. Most recently, she released a feature-length documentary about the Atomic Cafe, her family's legendary punk-rock restaurant. For Best of the Best, Sekizawa shot the most memorable wines of the past 12 months (p. 175). "Photographing Champagne is always fun," she admits. "I really loved playing with the effervescence and working in the glass ball."

Adam Morganstern

A regular contributor to *Robb Report*, Morganstern has covered wine, spirits, and travel on all seven continents. This month, he explores the battle between millionaires and billionaires for the Duel (p. 320). "The most surprising thing? Billionaires aren't all that happier than their millionaire counterparts," he shares. "Studies show that, past a point, more wealth doesn't mean more satisfaction. Plus, billionaires are under constant scrutiny—set your sights on nine digits instead of 10 and breathe easier."

Daniel Matallana

Hailing from Bogotá, Colombia, Matallana burst onto New York's fashion-photography scene 15 years ago. Throughout his career, he has captured images of celebrities such as Gigi Hadid and created campaigns for luxury brands including Polo Ralph Lauren and Saks Fifth Avenue. For this issue, he snapped a number of Best of the Best style winners (p. 89). "My top pick [from the shoot] was the outfit with the Brunello Cucinelli leather jacket," he says. "I just love how the styling really makes the jacket stand out."

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EDITOR'S LETTER

I bet you're a good driver. Or at least, I bet you *think* you're a good driver. According to an oft-cited survey from a few decades back, 80 percent of us believe we're better than average behind the wheel—a statistical impossibility, of course, and a curious expression of collective self-confidence/delusion.

Paul Croughton
EDITOR IN CHIEF
@PAULCROUGHTON

MARK MANN

I bring this up to talk not about driving but about taste. I've been thinking about it a lot recently—and how to define it. Because does anyone think they *don't* have good taste? A quick show of hands from those of you who'll stand up now and say, "Me? Oh, no—I'm horrible: My homes look like they've been decorated in the dark by a 3-year-old, and I can't dress myself for love nor money. Books, art, design, fashion . . . no clue."

Now, while I might be an outlier among you by *not* being convinced I'm a particularly good driver—long story; I'll tell you another time—I do think that I've got something approaching good taste. Not least because taste, like wine and cheese, improves with age, and as I'm starting to get on a bit, I've tried some things over the years, realized I didn't like them or they me, and moved on. With experience, experimentation, self-awareness, keen observation, and sometimes blind luck, one's taste evolves. Into your orbit might fall those whose discernment and knowledge you admire—whether you're influenced by them a little or co-opt their judgment entirely is up to you, but I've not yet met a tasteful clone. The truth is, the exposure to alternate and sometimes challenging aesthetic viewpoints is often where the learning, and discovery, happens. Be it in style or music, wine or literature, that for me has been one of life's great adventures, and I hope that process continues unabated.

This is *Robb Report*'s 36th Best of the Best Awards. It is full of ideas, products, experiences, and people that have inspired, delighted, and occasionally challenged us over the past 12 months. We now cover 16 categories, ranging from cars and watches to wine and jewelry via art, philanthropy, tech, and real estate. The editors and I are as objective as possible about the quality of those we bestow awards upon for this issue, but inevitably and obviously, much is a matter of taste.

Whether you would wear the Bovet Récital 28 Prowess 1 on your wrist comes down to its ability to speak to you on a visual, or perhaps even philosophical, level. But what's not a debate is that it's an extraordinary piece of work and deserving of our recognition. Likewise, whatever your take on "influencers" might be, the reach and impact of Alex Hirschi, a.k.a. Supercar Blondie, with 110 million followers, is to be respected, as is the growth of her company that now employs 60-plus people and her power in motivating younger women to get involved in the automotive industry.

You get the picture. This issue is first and foremost about excellence. Those on these pages are operating at the very highest levels of refinement and craft. But it's also about taste: mine and the editors', as well as that of the people behind 2024's Best of the Best winners, who possess a high-level understanding of how aesthetic sensibility and quality inevitably combine. It's been a pleasure putting this issue together for you because—who are we kidding?—as a reader of *Robb Report,* you've clearly got great taste.

Enjoy the issue.

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Hotel-hopping in Bhutan, wine-tasting in Bordeaux, putting a sports car through its paces at Sonoma Raceway, peeping the latest watch releases in Geneva, attending the menswear shows in Milan, testing cutting-edge yachts in Monaco, zigzagging across the country to dine at the newest culinary hot spots: The life of a *Robb Report* editor may sound glamorous, but—actually, we can't argue there. Even so, separating the wheat from the chaff is no small task in the luxury realm, since even the chaff can be mighty impressive. With this, our 36th annual Best of the Best issue, we offer our assessment of the past year's most exemplary people, products, places, and experiences. And yes, edition No. 37 is already underway.

THE ICONOCLASTS

Those making the biggest impacts in luxury today are fearlessly bucking norms. Here, a portfolio of leaders with both the talent and the tenacity to move things forward.

PHOTOGRAPH BY Anna Nielsen

THE INFLUENCER

ALEX HIRSCHI

FOR ALEX HIRSCHI, who grew up in a small town in rural Australia, taking the road less traveled was usually the only option, and so she realized early on that the automobile was her connection to the larger world. “Whenever we had to go anywhere, it was always a car ride for hours, even to the nearest city,” says Hirschi, who admits that her interest was initially “less about a passion for cars than a passion for driving.”

It wasn’t until hosting a local radio show led her to cover car launches, and Bentley loaned her a press vehicle for a couple of days, that she developed an obsession—one she shared with her husband, Nik. “The two of us went to every car event we could find on the weekends, apart from our full-time jobs,” Hirschi says. They’d film and post snippets that, as she puts it, “tapped into the layman’s perspective on cool cars.” The result: 50,000 Instagram followers within a year.

Since just 2017, her social-media persona, Supercar Blondie, has garnered 110 million followers and currently attracts about 2 billion views per month to the reviews, car reveals, and profiles produced under the auspices of the Dubai-based couple’s 65-employee SB Media Group. Now courted by the world’s most exclusive automakers as a potential collaborator, Hirschi parlayed her global reach and rarefied collector connections this past April, when she launched the online-auction platform SBX Cars. While internet-bidding sites are ubiquitous—and known for offering vehicles of varying quality—Hirschi’s version is international in scope and focuses solely on the most coveted supercars, hypercars, and classics for an elite community of buyers and sellers.

While it’s too early to tell how this latest venture will fare, Hirschi’s success and influence undeniably include a trickier metric to gauge: her impact on younger generations of women inspired to make their own mark on a historically male-dominated industry. **Viju Mathew**

THE BUILDER

MARK GRATTAN

ONE OF THE BOLDEST personalities in design today, Mark Grattan is hard to categorize. He's a designer, yes, but he's also a craftsman and an activist known for advocating for an increased presence of Black designers in the industry. (In 2020, the visual campaign for Grattan's furniture brand, Vidivixi, included images for a piece called Split Mirror in which he's seen reflecting on his role as a queer Black designer.)

Working in the interiors field for more than a decade, Grattan has honed his craft through experimentation, meticulously producing furniture in shapes and textures that, though they draw from Art Deco and tropical modernism, feel fresh and surprising. Seeing Grattan's work at a design fair—during which one comes across hundreds of chairs, beds, and lights—makes even the most discerning design editor pause.

"My influences, by principle, are based on color, unique marriages between textures, and an unconventional approach to the ordinary," he says. "The fundamentals that drive my work have always been what feels natural and honest."

Raised in Hudson, Ohio, by artistic parents who supported his creative path, Grattan studied industrial design at Pratt Institute, focusing on furniture. He moved to Mexico City in 2016 and soon after launched Vidivixi, through which he has released a series of dark, moody, and sophisticated furniture collections that pushed back against the ubiquitous white-walled, soft-pastel-hued fare that has dominated for a decade. Ribbed stainless-steel consoles nod to the '80s, while striped leather couches are almost Seussian, but his use of scale and shape and careful attention to the relationship between furniture and the human body imbue each piece with refined glamour.

For Grattan, a veteran woodworker, craftsmanship plays a central role in his practice. "You cannot design without knowledge of how things are manufactured," he notes. "You absolutely cannot design anything without having experience understanding the personalities of materials, their abilities, and constraints."

Aside from furniture, he has been trying his hand at interior design, notably outfitting the New York home of sports superstars Megan Rapinoe and Sue Bird. And Grattan is pushing full speed ahead, planning to open his first New York showroom by the end of the year. "I don't want my age—I'm 40 now—to neutralize the fearlessness I see in my work," he says. "The work will never be easier to create, and the process will always be unpredictable. Your willingness to take the ride is what ends up putting you in the driver's seat." **Rachel Gallaher**

PHOTOGRAPH BY Laurel Golio

THE PRODIGY

ELOA GUILLOTIN

ELOA GUILLOTIN'S CHILDHOOD dream of becoming an astronaut prompted her career as an aerospace engineer. But when Covid started, Guillotin, then 24, realized that, rather than going to space, she could have a more profound impact on aviation by creating a decarbonized aircraft. In 2020, Guillotin and fellow engineers Valentin Chomel and Hugo Tarlé formed Beyond Aero. "It was obvious to us that aviation had to become electric," she says. "We figured, as a start-up, the best way to achieve that was with hydrogen fuel cells."

Having raised $24 million, the three are now in a race to create the world's first hydrogen-powered electric business aircraft. In February, Beyond Aero's initial two test flights of a G1 ultralight, retrofitted with Beyond Aero's electric engines and hydrogen fuel cell, went as planned—noteworthy because the propulsion system is only three years old, compared to many flight programs that can take a decade.

"We're like any start-up, facing money and time pressures," says Guillotin. "The question is how to get there in the fastest possible way without compromising safety."

The company seems to be making the right moves. The team hired hydrogen experts and studied hydrogen-powered vehicles ("anything with a fuel cell," Guillotin adds) before designing its BYA-1, a six-seat business jet with a 1,000-mile range. Aiming for 2030 certification, the jet will use off-the-shelf components to shorten its development cycle. Beyond Aero is also closely watching aerospace giant Airbus's hydrogen-powered commercial-jet program.

Many in aviation view hydrogen with skepticism, believing it could involve a much longer path to carbon-free flight than the electric motors and lithium-ion batteries—not to mention the significantly higher capital investments—already available with eVTOLs.

Guillotin pushes back against the naysayers, noting her BYA-1 jet provides a better case for regional use than shorter-range eVTOLs. She acknowledges potential pitfalls but believes a smart business plan and emerging technology will result in the world's first hydrogen-powered business jet. "Remember, we're surfing just one wave of a larger ecosystem—a massive hydrogen initiative led by Airbus, while we're focusing on business aircraft," she says. "It's moving faster than anyone expected. For us, it's not a question of if, but when." **Michael Verdon**

PHOTOGRAPH BY Amanda Villarosa

THE TORCHBEARER

JUAN LUGO

THERE ARE MORE than 500 cigar brands in the world today, all vying for the same customers. But that reality didn't stop Juan Lugo, founder of Don Doroteo Cigars, from pursuing his longtime dream: Following in his late grandfather's footsteps and becoming a *tabaquero*.

Lugo, a born-and-raised New Yorker, is the grandson of Doroteo Fermin Delgado, who grew tobacco for La Aurora, the Dominican Republic's pioneering cigar company. Though the trade runs in his veins, it was Lugo's annual vacations that cemented his desire to finally join it. "My parents would take my younger brother and me to the Dominican Republic every year for a couple of months during summer break," says Lugo, now 34. "During these trips, we would spend a lot of time around our grandfather, who was a dedicated farmer, and help him with chores."

But it would take years for him to join his grandfather's profession. Before college, he enlisted in the air force and was twice deployed to Iraq, where alcohol was forbidden but cigars were not. After completing a business degree at San José State University, Lugo worked as a product manager for cybersecurity and cryptocurrency companies. His transition from tech to tobacco bucks the trend in the D.R., which has emerged as a global hub for advanced electronics. But ironically, it was a group of tech-industry pals who helped him make the jump the other way.

"I had just returned from a business trip to Puerto Rico, where I met some investor friends from tech who also happened to be big cigar aficionados," he says. "We spent the weekend smoking cigars and contemplating this project."

Around the same time, Lugo's mother discovered tobacco still growing on land she had inherited from his grandfather. Lugo considered it a sign. He and his partner purchased 20 of those acres, which are now growing crops for future releases. The first Don Doroteo cigars (called El Legado, released in 2022) were made with aged tobaccos from La Aurora, the very same company where Lugo's grandfather had spent his career—a fitting tribute. **Richard Carleton Hacker**

THE CONNECTOR

HIND SEDDIQI

AT DUBAI WATCH Week in November, it was hard not to notice a striking figure gliding through the fair, clad in an elegant pale-blue hijab and an aura of cool confidence. The woman was Hind Seddiqi, whose grandfather founded Ahmed Seddiqi & Sons, the largest watch retailer in the U.A.E., with over 50 locations and counting. Her own influence in the region is growing, thanks to the increasing importance of the show and its Horology Forum, of which she is director general. The free public events she masterminds are especially noteworthy for their ability to corral the world's leading independent watchmakers into the same space.

Seddiqi, 39, who is also chief marketing and communications officer of her family's business, started the forum at Dubai Watch Week in 2015 and now organizes events around the world. While it has helped attract more customers, there's also hope the exposure will encourage a new generation to join the industry. "We used to hear brands saying, 'Oh, my God—we can't find enough watchmakers,' " she says. "We thought, 'Does that mean the end of the industry at some point?' We do not want it to wither like that."

But thanks to her efforts, Dubai has become a must-visit for die-hard aficionados. "The first edition was 14 brands only and the majority were independent," she explains, referring to the inaugural show—a small affair with just 2,500 visitors. The sixth edition, last November, had 23,800 attendees and 68 brands. "We are already taking requests for 2025," she says. "We are obliged to introduce new brands, so I have to say no to some that have done it before."

If competition among exhibitors is stiff, the vibe of the fair remains laid-back, and Seddiqi wants to keep it that way. While many big names, including Rolex, Audemars Piguet, and Van Cleef & Arpels, now participate, the spirit of the independents is still palpable. Nowhere else do you see so many masters of their craft—Philippe Dufour, Kari Voutilainen, and Rexhep Rexhepi among them—rubbing shoulders with enthusiasts.

To maintain the atmosphere, Seddiqi installed a committee to ensure priority is given to brands presenting global launches, new collections, limited editions, and intriguing experiences. It's a step that's likely to help Dubai Watch Week maintain its position as the hottest horological ticket outside of Switzerland.

Paige Reddinger

PHOTOGRAPH BY Anna Nielsen

JULIA NEESON

THE HEALER

SONU SHIVDASANI

THE ELUSIVE 59-year-old founder of both Six Senses and Soneva opened his first property—Soneva Fushi, on the Maldives's Baa Atoll—in 1995. He'd first visited the island nation eight years earlier with his now-wife, model Eva Malmström, who'd been photographed on its beaches. Shivdasani was instantly smitten and quickly spotted a gap in the market. There were only a handful of high-end hotels, all operated by corporate chains, all business-travel specialists. "But when you're on holiday, you don't need military execution—you're looking for experiences. You're un-busy," he says. Together, he and Malmström devised the idea for Soneva, its focus on wellness drawn from his own globe-trotting childhood as the son of a wealthy businessman.

Their approach was an instant hit and soon spawned Six Senses. Both brands made wellness and sustainability a focus long before they were buzzwords. Shivdasani proudly points to the 2 percent environmental levy introduced on all stays in 2008, the same year he banned imported bottled water. The savings on the latter now help provide clean drinking water to underserved communities—around 600,000 people so far and counting.

When other hotels began mimicking his barefoot-luxury spa concept—before Soneva, he quips, "a gym instructor might give you a massage in a room that looked like the broom cupboard"—it pushed him to innovate further. Since selling Six Senses in 2012, he has grown Soneva slowly, adding a fourth site this year. The new 14-villa Soneva Secret is a rarity in the Maldives, sitting on its own atoll. And while it has an impressive spa, the other Maldives locations have facilities known as Soneva Soul, offering everything from hyperbaric oxygen therapy to stem-cell treatments.

That's born, in part, from his own needs: Shivdasani was diagnosed with a rare and aggressive form of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma seven years ago. "I had 30 tumors in my chest, completely riddled with it, and one lung had collapsed," he recalls. He combined his chemo with Ayurvedic cleanses and the like and was soon in remission. Unfortunately, the cancer has returned, and he's using complementary therapies to help tackle it. "My experience inspired what Soneva Soul is today," he says. "Everything to cure my cancer this time around, we have at Soneva Soul."

Mark Ellwood

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THE ICON

JUDY CHICAGO

JUDY CHICAGO SPENT the first decade of her career trying to disguise the fact that her art was made by a woman. Then, fed up, she finally said the hell with it and made the work she wanted to make: about the female body, toxic masculinity, and women's role in history. In the process, she paved the way for countless other female artists and became a feminist icon.

"I have always had—from the time I was a child—a burning desire to make art," she tells *Robb Report*. "I wouldn't do anything that I felt would threaten my ability to work in my studio: I wouldn't have children, wouldn't have property. I certainly didn't want a mortgage, because then I'd have to think about money. And I didn't want to think about money. I wanted to think about art." (She has kept most of those vows, except the one about the mortgage: Her husband persuaded her to buy a home when she was 60.)

Now, at 84, Chicago is living her best life, having just had a major retrospective at the New Museum in New York—a version of which opens June 29 at Luma Arles in France—and with another exhibition on view at the Serpentine in London through September 1. That show revolves around her book *Revelations*, an illuminated manuscript she initially wrote 50 years ago, with an original creation myth and a revisionist view of history. When she tried to find a publisher in the 1970s, however, she came up empty.

The exhibitions and book, Chicago says, "represent my achieving my lifetime goals, which involved overcoming the erasure that has eclipsed the work of so many women, including my own. I wanted to ensure that wouldn't happen to me."

Chicago has been a prominent supporter of other women, cofounding feminist art programs in California and creating her famed piece *The Dinner Party (1974-79)*—a triangular table with 39 place settings referencing female genitalia—as a tribute to pivotal women throughout history. For her New Museum retrospective, she collaborated closely with artistic director Massimiliano Gioni on *The City of Ladies,* an exhibition-within-an-exhibition spotlighting more than 80 female and genderqueer artists.

"We have this history that we've been deprived of," she says. "And I have always wanted my work to provide a bridge to that history, because it's part of human art history, and it belongs to us." **Julie Belcove**

PHOTOGRAPH BY Stefan Wachs

STEFANO DE VIVO

DESPITE GROWING UP in landlocked Milan, Stefano de Vivo developed an early passion for the sea. At age 4, he piloted wooden boats with his cousins off the Amalfi coast and soon after learned to sail. At 16, he was promoted from student to instructor at a top sailing school—on his first day. This is emblematic of de Vivo's career: His résumé reads like that of someone with 20 years' more experience, with increasingly important positions at top Italian brands Riva and Benetti and then, at just 36, becoming chief commercial officer of the Ferretti Group in 2014.

Working with CEO Alberto Galassi, de Vivo was essential to Ferretti's turnaround. "As a consultant, I'd devised the strategy we used," says de Vivo. The pair took a cold, hard look at the once-revered conglomerate, then on financial life support. They shuttered one of its seven brands and sold another. Custom Line, a characterless marque many considered dead, was tasked with designing larger, contemporary megayachts, while its CRN superyacht division, where de Vivo joined the board, required a top-to-bottom reboot. Custom Line became Ferretti's leading revenue earner, while CRN is now building to capacity. And thanks to an aggressive new-model rollout, the Group returned to profitability. "Our five-year strategy had gone according to plan, and the job seemed like it might get boring," says de Vivo.

Then came the 2019 acquisition of Wally Yachts—which de Vivo, named managing director, "pushed for like crazy" due to his love of sailing. The boutique brand has seen its sales increase from $2 million to $70 million with nine new models, without abandoning Wally's reputation as a paradigm shifter in design.

De Vivo remains an enigma among Italy's top yacht executives. His engineering degree in naval architecture gives him an understanding of yachting's technical side, while an MBA and nearly three years spent in Hong Kong provide a global-business perspective. He's also in the enviable position of having proved himself after a decade at Ferretti but still being young enough to impact yachting for decades to come.

"The industry is changing fast," he says. "Many first-time owners are buying big yachts, demanding more luxury, interior space, and sustainability," trends that will require seismic shifts in technology and design. "It's an exciting time to be part of, and hopefully lead, these sea changes." **M.V.**

PHOTOGRAPH BY Filippo Venturi

THE GROUNDBREAKER

BRENAE ROYAL

AMONG THE THINGS that Brenae Royal loves about her "office": It's outdoors, covered with grapevines, and home to a variety of wildlife. Plus, she tells *Robb Report,* "I get to bring my black Lab, Violet Mae, to work every day. Oh, and there's wine involved."

Until recently a manager at the historic Monte Rosso Vineyard in Sonoma, Calif.—first planted with grapevines in 1886 and now boasting 250 acres of Cabernet Sauvignon, Zinfandel, and Sémillon—the 34-year-old Royal only just started a new position with St. Supéry, in Napa Valley, where she's farming primarily Sauvignon Blanc and Cabernet Sauvignon, plus an interesting mix of other varieties in Pope Valley and Rutherford. Running vineyards has long been considered "man's work"; Royal, who made the leap to St. Supéry after 11 years with Monte Rosso's parent company, Gallo, is one of a small number of women in the field—and the only Black woman in such a high-profile position.

She refers to herself as a "steward of the land," saying, "I want to make sure that I'm sustainably farming, so that the land I tend will live long after I'm gone." Under her leadership, Monte Rosso Vineyard maintained its sustainable certification and is currently in year two of its transition to organic certification. Royal also changed the makeup of the team that tends the vines, which fluctuates from 40 to 100 people, depending on the season. "When I first started as the vineyard manager, it was 100 percent male, and by 2017 women made up to 40 percent of the team," she notes. "Now during harvest, a few of the crews are 100 percent women, which is something I'm so proud to see."

Her jump to St. Supéry means that Royal will now be responsible for 600 acres—nearly two-and-a-half times as much planted land as at Monte Rosso. She is especially excited about St. Supéry's Napa Green certification and its commitment to sustainability and the Napa Valley community.

No stranger to hard work, she ran an event—a master class and tasting with Sonoma growers and winemakers called Reach for the Moon—just eight weeks after giving birth to her first child. A long way from her childhood days working in her grandmother's abundant gardens and raising pigs with Future Farmers of America during high school, Royal is proud to be a collaborator on what she calls a consumable art while being a member of a community that influences the environment. "Becoming a mom made me see that from a microscopic point of view in the form of my little boy," she says. "The responsibility of making sure I leave things better than I found them is that much more important to me."

Mike DeSimone and Jeff Jensen

PHOTOGRAPH BY Alexander Rubin

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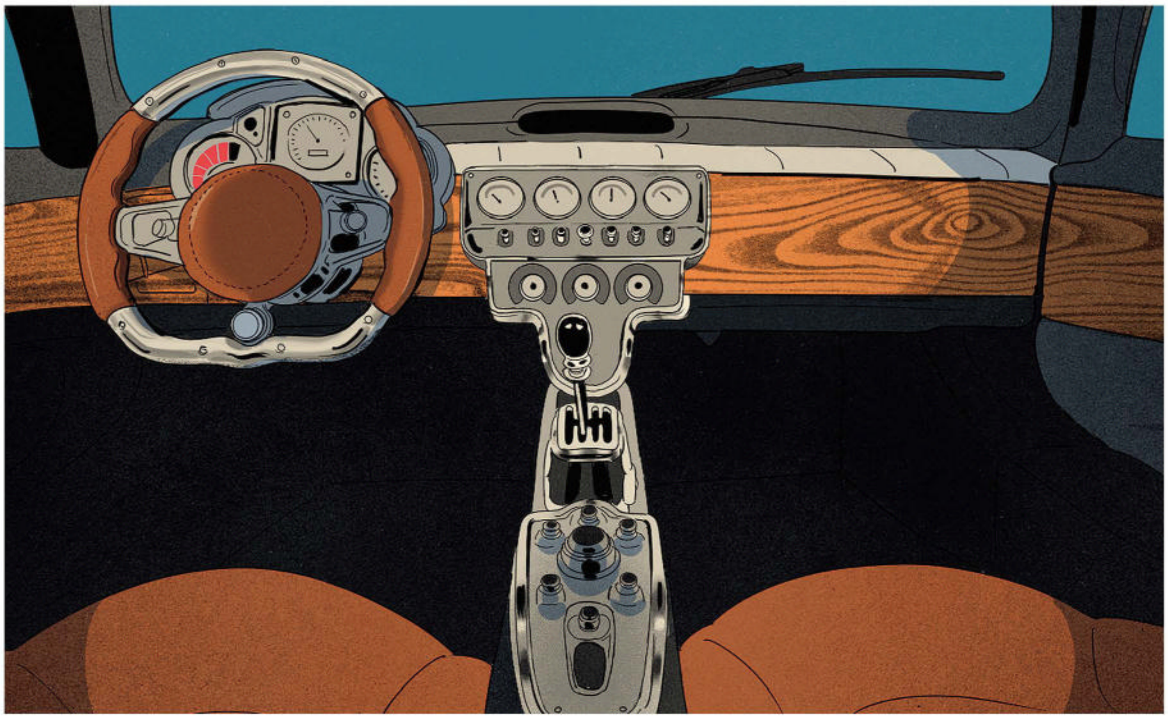
WHEELS

By Viju Mathew, Robert Ross, Adam Child, Sean Evans, Tim Pitt, and Basem Wasef



THE BIG IDEA

ANALOG FOR THE AGES

WHILE DIGITAL technology has introduced lavish advances in automotive comfort and convenience, it's also impacting notions of exclusivity and collectibility. Nothing ages a vehicle faster, for example, than an outdated infotainment system. Such inevitable obsolescence and the looming era of silent, sterile EVs are why a few elite manufacturers and restorers are embracing an unapologetically analog approach.

"The automotive world is going through a paradigm shift," says Rob Dickinson, founder of Singer Vehicle Design, known for transformative restorations of the Porsche 911. "Electric power means that huge speed is relatively easy to accomplish, so it's less of a differentiator. Perhaps there's a renewed interest in analog as a result—the emotional connection for an owner engaging with a bighearted flat-six and a three-pedal manual transmission is a powerful one."

The approximately $2 million Pagani Utopia, our pick for Best Hypercar last year, not only has a traditional power train, with the 864 hp 12-cylinder engine mated to a manual gearbox, it also features meticulously crafted switchgear and gauges. "We like simple, lightweight cars focused on dynamics and not driven by the latest electronic devices," says Christopher Pagani of his family's boutique marque, adding that while "there's always an evolution of our models, sometimes the evolution doesn't include screens." Which is good news for owners looking to personalize the cockpit, as with one example's Hermès-commissioned interior.

"Screen inflation dates the car like nothing else," says Bugatti design director Frank Heyl. Referencing the French automaker's 100-year-old Type 35, he notes that "these cars are still in collectors' garages, they're still being raced, so for any new car we now make, we have to keep the aspect of timelessness in mind." Slow adoption (or no adoption) of software-dependent trappings safeguards a brand's legacy. Plus, in many ways, high-end markets have long preferred analog. "When the quartz watch came out, everyone thought it was the end of the mechanical watch," Heyl notes, "but the opposite has been the case."

Along with certain new exotics, the classic-car market also attests to the enduring appeal of retro aesthetics. "Some of the oldest cars from the antique and brass eras are now attracting more and more younger collectors," says David Gooding, cofounder of automotive auction house Gooding & Company. "Analog cars encompass a whole visceral process that goes beyond the simple push of a button and the lighting up of a screen, and that's quite exciting for a lot of people."

ILLUSTRATION BY Emmanuel Polanco

HYPERCAR

GORDON MURRAY AUTOMOTIVE

T.50s Niki Lauda

THESE DAYS, THE differentiation between “supercar” and “hypercar” is increasingly subjective and not just a matter of power. Consider that entrants in the top-tier FIA World Endurance Championship Hypercar class are limited to a total output (engine and hybrid system combined) of 670 hp; it just goes to show that while muscle is one thing, power-to-weight is what puts the “hyper” in hypercar—and what edged Gordon Murray Automotive’s T.50s Niki Lauda to the head of this year’s class.

Named in honor of designer Gordon Murray’s close friend, former Formula 1 colleague, and three-time Formula 1 World Drivers’ champion, the 761 hp track-only tour de force (limited to 25 examples) tips the scales with a dry weight of less than 1,985 pounds. This gives the aluminum-and-carbon-fiber two-seater—its cockpit configuration mimics the Murray-designed McLaren F1 GTR race car—a power-to-weight ratio that bests such models as the original 1,500 hp Bugatti Chiron. Factor in the 3.9-liter Cosworth GMA V-12 engine revving to 12,100 rpm and the 2,645 pounds of downforce, and the T.50s makes a compelling argument that the legendary F1 wasn’t Murray’s magnum opus after all. *Approximately $3.85 million*

Fancar
T.50s

DEAN SMITH

SUV

MERCEDES-AMG
EQE SUV

IN 1886, when Karl Benz introduced his single-cylinder, four-stroke Patent-Motorwagen, the internal-combustion engine was a breakthrough of bleeding-edge technology—one that went on to change the world. Today, the marque is looking past fossil fuels while remaining committed to innovative tech, which neatly sums up the Mercedes-AMG EQE SUV experience. This is the inaugural all-electric SUV for AMG, the German automaker's motorsport-focused arm, and the pedigree is apparent despite the 5,768-pound curb weight and lack of AMG's signature throaty growl. Dual electric motors supported by a 90.6 kWh battery make the base model a 617 hp grocery-getter with 701 ft lbs of torque and the ability to sprint from zero to 60 mph in just 3.4 seconds.

In this cutthroat category there are, of course, faster and more balletic SUVs, but what truly separates this Mercedes from the rest of the field is a cabin that George Lucas would envy. Consider the wildly detailed augmented-reality head-up display, Burmester 3-D surround sound, and sprawling, 56-inch Hyperscreen dash with a software system that becomes increasingly customized to your preferences over time, just for starters. This is a vehicle to delight early adopters who want a maximalist alternative to Tesla's austere minimalism—a bigger, bolder, more luxuriantly utilitarian version of what an EV can and perhaps should be. *From $109,300*

BENTLEY: JONATHAN FLEETWOOD

SEDAN

BENTLEY

Flying Spur Speed

DON'T CALL IT a comeback yet, but the sedan is entering a new age of exclusivity and performance, and leading the charge is the Bentley Flying Spur Speed. The 626 hp four-door is expected to be among the last in the 105-year-old automaker's lineup to be powered solely by a 12-cylinder engine—a power plant Bentley will stop producing this summer. Yet nostalgia isn't why it tops this category for us. That would be the car's combination of athleticism and finish.

The Flying Spur Speed hustles from zero to 60 mph in 3.7 seconds—quicker than the all-electric Rolls-Royce Spectre—and with a top speed of 207 mph, it can leave a 671 hp McLaren Artura in the rearview. The car's dynamic all-wheel-drive system and all-wheel steering add grip and agility that belie the 5,373-pound curb weight, while the 48-volt Dynamic Ride setup adjusts stiffness in the turns; it's shockingly nimble for such a stately four-door, even on track. The cabin, as expected, is defined by Bentley's attention to visual and tactile delight, including such options as exotic-wood veneers, knurled switchgear, and 3-D diamond-quilted leather. While this benchmark sedan may represent the end of the marque's unassisted 12-cylinder era, there's nothing bygone about it. *From $266,500*

REVUELTO

ANDY CASANO

SUPERCAR

LAMBORGHINI

Revuelto

THE HYBRID SUCCESSOR to the Aventador is one of the wildest Raging Bulls we've driven. Wisely, Lamborghini gifted the Revuelto the Aventador's raging heart—a naturally aspirated 6.5-liter V-12—as there's simply no substitute for that growing roar as the tach climbs. With a trio of electric motors, output is a whopping 1,001 hp, which allows the Revuelto to cover zero to 62 mph in 2.5 seconds on its way to a top speed of 217 mph. Under hard acceleration, it's a delightful assault on the senses.

But immense power is nothing without poise. The model's unflappable aplomb is thanks to better weight distribution and increased downforce compared with the Aventador, plus software that enables the electric motors either to fill torque gaps or enhance traction control, depending on what's needed. Then there's the super processor, constantly sending chassis-control corrections in order to enable cornering speeds that hardly seem feasible for a mere mortal to handle behind the wheel—but the Revuelto finds the grip (despite underwhelming Bridgestone tires—consider swapping out the rubber) and makes its performance envelope more approachable for a wider swath of drivers. *From $604,363*

CONTINUATION CAR

BIZZARRINI

5300 GT Corsa Revival

FAST, BEAUTIFUL, and rare, the Bizzarrini 5300 GT was one of the most promising Italian sports cars of its day. With Strada (street) and Corsa (race) variants totaling only 133 examples made through 1969, it hardly had the production span to prove engineer Giotto Bizzarrini's vision. Founded in 1964, his namesake marque developed a coupe to dominate the track, which it did by taking first place in its class at Le Mans in 1965. Using a front-mid-mounted Chevrolet small-block V-8 engine—the motor had a displacement of roughly 5,300 cc, hence the "5300" designation—the model applied lessons learned from the Ferrari 250 GTO, another Bizzarrini design: "I started with the idea of the Ferrari GTO and set about trying to improve on it," he said.

Those seeking a modern race version will want one of the 24 exacting copies produced by the resurrected Bizzarrini brand. Louder than a cement mixer and no more civilized, the contemporary 5300 GT Corsa Revival delivers a track-only experience identical to the original. For historic racers longing to travel back in time, here is your machine. *Approximately $2 million*

8
Bizzarrini

SAM CHICK

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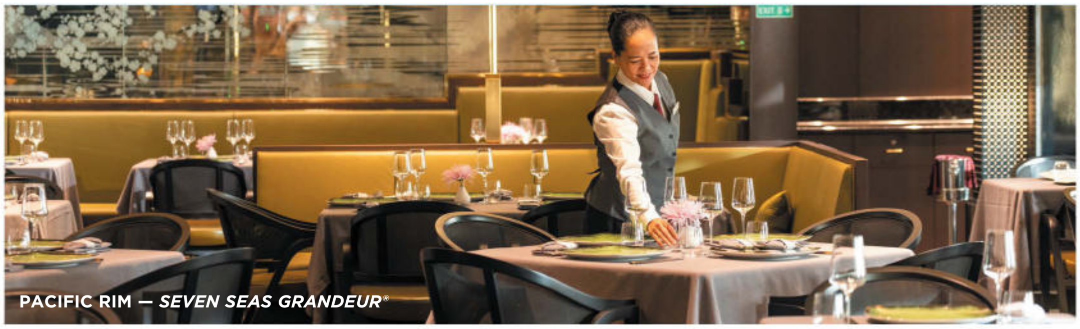

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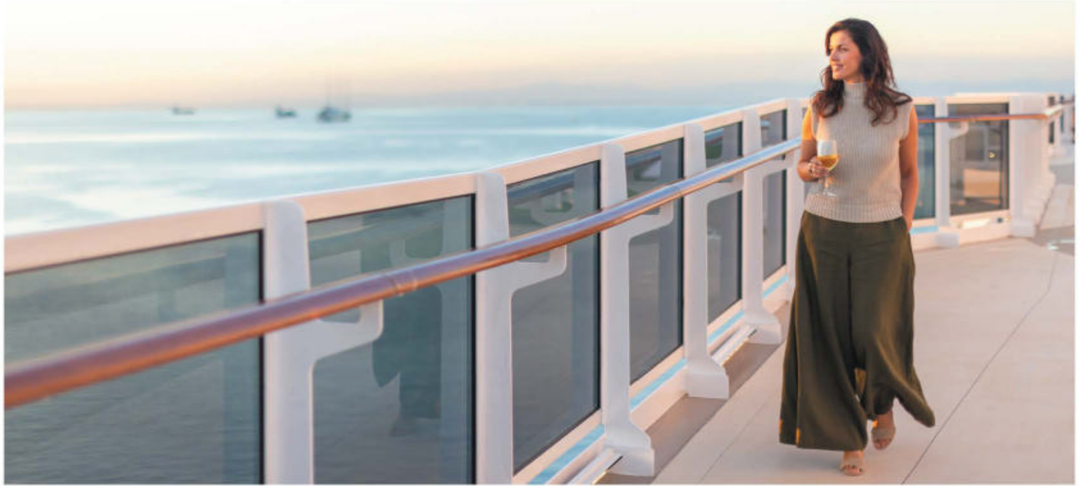

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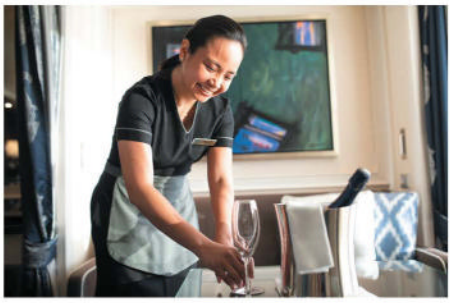

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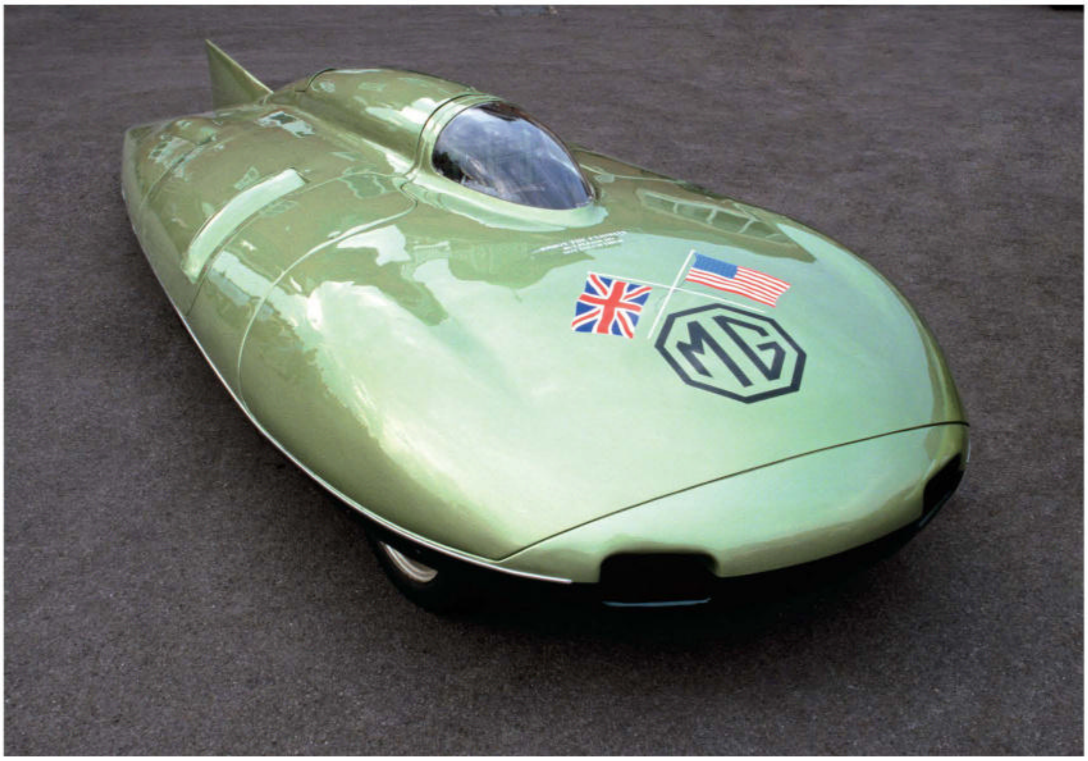


SHOW CAR

MG

1957 EX181

ALTHOUGH THE LATEST supercar crop now regularly breaks the 200 mph barrier, the unique MG EX181 did so back when Eisenhower was in the White House. At this year's Rétromobile, the Parisian classic-car show known for attracting automotive unicorns, the otherworldly craft from MG (Morris Garages) glistened like a sleek and somehow still-futuristic jewel beetle. Its then-unparalleled straight-line performance proved the success of the design and was realized through the car's aerodynamic efficiency, light weight, and high-strung, pint-size MGA twin-cam engine that was supercharged to within an inch of its life.

Perhaps most remarkable is that the 1.5-liter inline-four developed 290 hp at 7,000 rpm, a level of output unattainable by most cars with twice the displacement. Piloted by Stirling Moss on August 23, 1957, the British bolide established a speed record of 245.64 mph at the Bonneville Salt Flats. Two years later, with the vehicle carrying an even more powerful 1.5-liter engine, Phil Hill drove it to 254.91 mph—a hair more than the top speed of the 2005 Bugatti Veyron 16.4 nearly five decades later.

MG: PHIL TALBOT/ALAMY

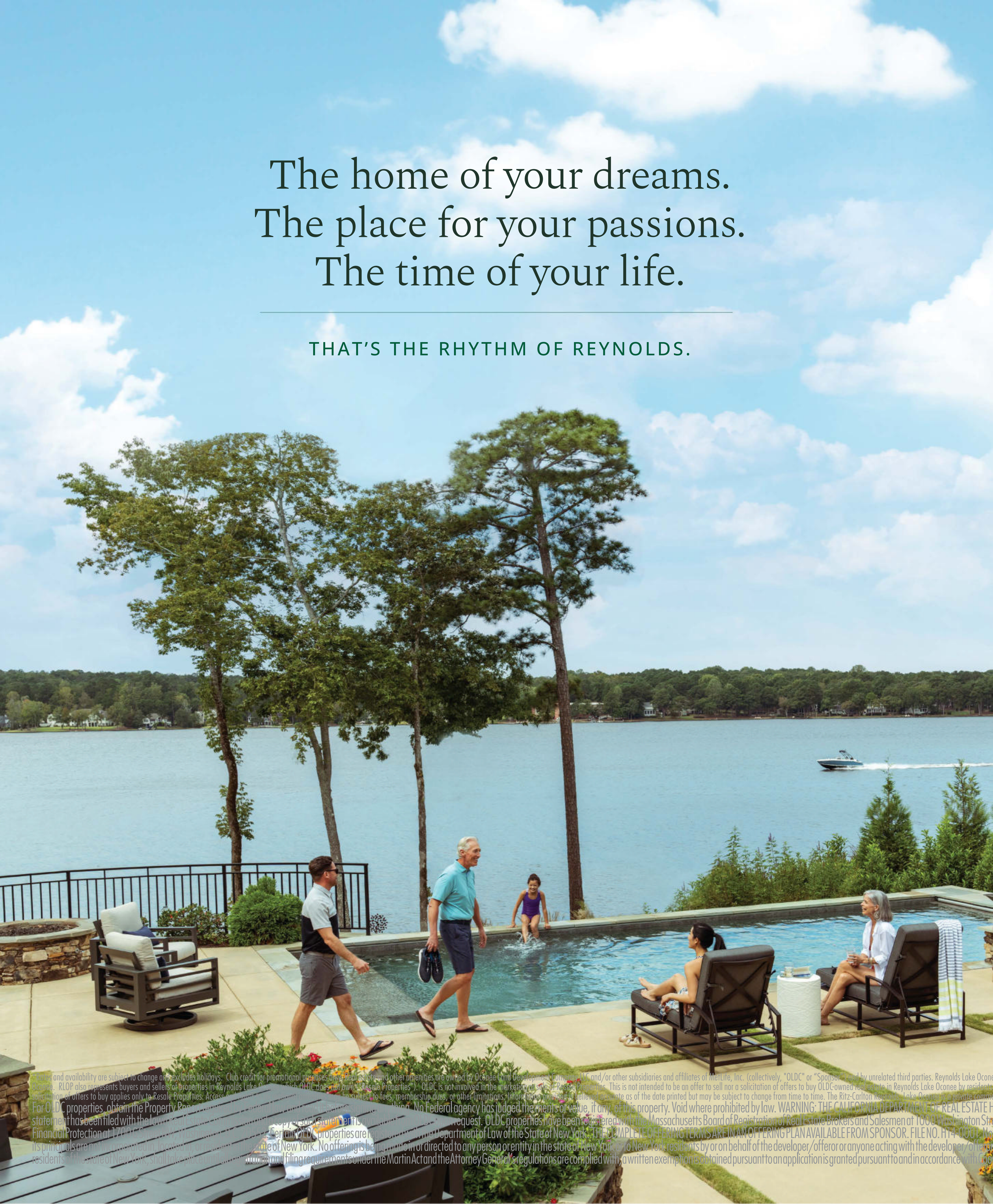
RESTOMOD

SINGER VEHICLE DESIGN

DLS Turbo Restoration

SINGER DIDN'T INVENT the idea of giving classic cars a modern interpretation just like Michael Jordan didn't invent basketball—but both completely reinvented the game. Singer founder Rob Dickinson and his team have been reimagining the Porsche 964 (Stuttgart's internal designation for the generation of air-cooled 911 models produced from 1989 through 1994) for 15 years and continue to hold court with their new turbocharged Dynamics and Lightweighting Study (DLS) treatment, despite growing competition.

Each commissioned DLS Turbo project starts with a complete deconstruction of an original 964 followed by painstaking chassis restoration and reinforcement. The subsequent resurrection includes a carbon-fiber body and the original flat-six engine—now given 3.8 liters of displacement—rebuilt with twin turbochargers and retuned to deliver more than 700 hp (compared to the approximately 247 hp of the initial 964), output that's managed by a six-speed manual transmission. Whether the client wants the car for the track or for touring dictates aerodynamic accents such as a high-downforce wing or a ducktail spoiler. Regardless, the customized interior will showcase the other reason well-heeled clients continue to flock to Singer, which is its unparalleled aesthetic chops. *Pricing available upon request*



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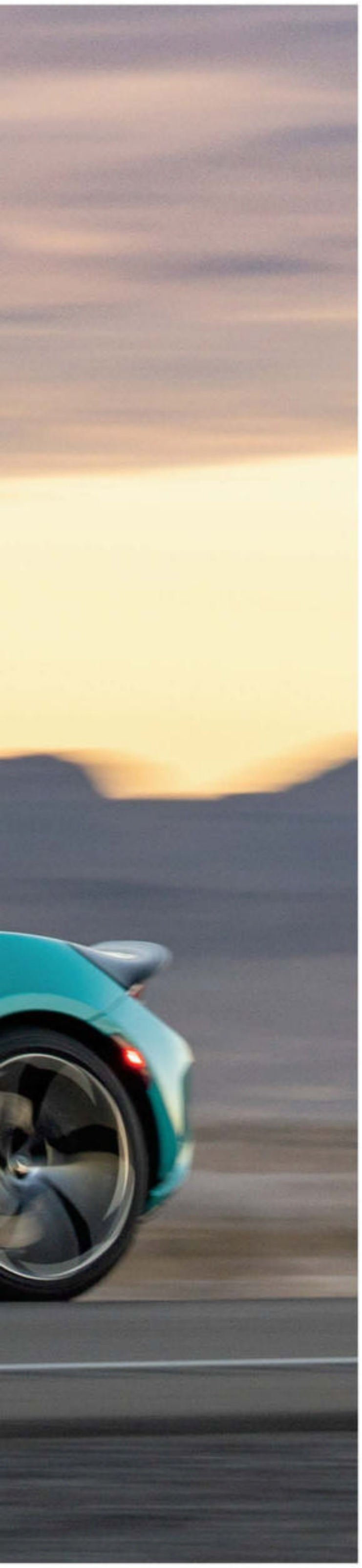
McLAREN
750S Spider

THE SOUNDTRACK OF the McLaren 750S Spider's revamped, mid-mounted V-8 engine alone will make you want to drop the top even on overcast days. Engineers worked hard on a new, lighter exhaust that's tuned to howl, scream, and snort—it would be a shame not to soak it in at full volume. After all, this is the most powerful production-series model yet from McLaren, with 740 hp and 590 ft lbs of torque. That output sends the 2,923-pound (dry weight) coupe from zero to 60 mph in 2.7 seconds and to a top speed of 206 mph. Also noteworthy are the front-end styling and cockpit design that won't appear dated on future concours lawns (though we're less enamored with the rear-fascia adjustments). But it's the sensation behind the wheel that never gets old. With ignition cuts on downshifts delivering startling cracks and engine mounts tweaked to deliver a punch between the shoulder blades, the drive experience makes the model variant what every child envisions a roadster to be: exhilarating, evocative, and viscerally engaging. *From $364,500*

MCLAREN: BEADYEYE

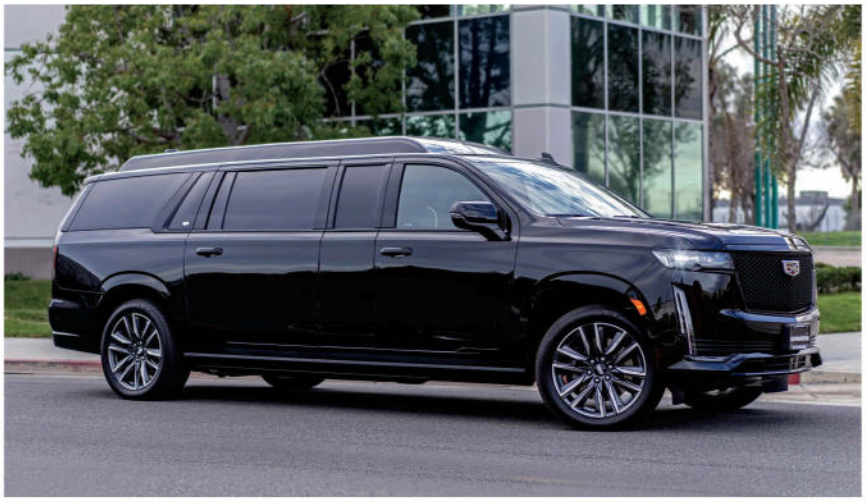


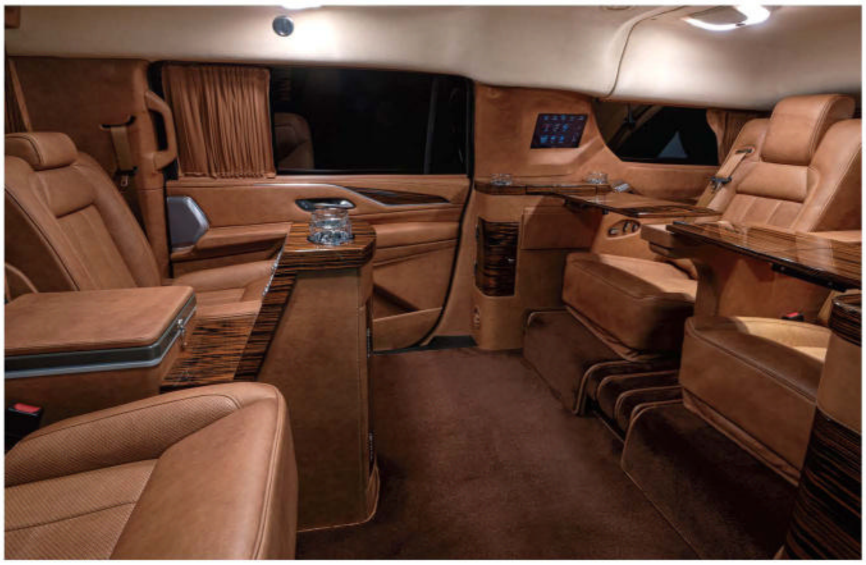
GRAND TOURER

ASTON MARTIN

DB12

ASTON MARTIN CALLS its new DB12 a Super Tourer, which we suppose is meant to sit one rung above a grand tourer. Whatever the nomenclature, the coupe was named *Robb Report*'s 2024 Car of the Year, and understandably so. The DB12 succeeds the seven-year-old DB11, and while its signature styling remains pure Aston, 80 percent of the design is new. Like every predecessor since the DB4, it features seemingly unimprovable proportions and a seductive fastback profile. Befitting a proper GT, the snug interior is dressed in stitched-leather poshness; forget the back seats save for a small carryall or two—the DB12 is a driver's car at its core, offering athletic vehicle dynamics and a 671 hp V-8 engine from Mercedes-AMG that gives it 34 percent greater output than the DB11. Notably, there's new infotainment to replace Aston's legacy systems—designed when Myspace was the social-media platform of choice—which makes this an Aston Martin that finally comes with no excuses, just superlatives. *From $245,000*





EXECUTIVE TRANSPORTATION

BECKER AUTOMOTIVE DESIGN

Stretched Cadillac Escalade ESV
Security Edition

TRANSFORMED BY Becker Automotive Design, Cadillac's Escalade ESV becomes a sumptuous and well-equipped mobile office for CEOs who want to fly under the radar while taking care of business on the move. Becker conversions meet or exceed every U.S. federal vehicle-safety standard, and now, in addition to a 20-, 26-, or 30-inch stretched wheelbase and raised steel-roof configurations, optional ballistic protection is available based on customer needs. Once inside, up to five rear-compartment occupants will find the spacious interior finished on a level of the finest European luxury sedans—yet even those don't offer two airline-style seats and Cadillac's most advanced air-ride adaptive suspension. When it's time to close the laptop and silence the cell phone, you can take in movies or music on a 43-inch HD monitor with state-of-the-art surround sound. And, as always, the vehicle's showroom-stock exterior allows this bulletproof Becker to remain a best-kept secret as it blends in with the crowd. *From $550,000*

PORSCHE: MICHAEL SIMARI

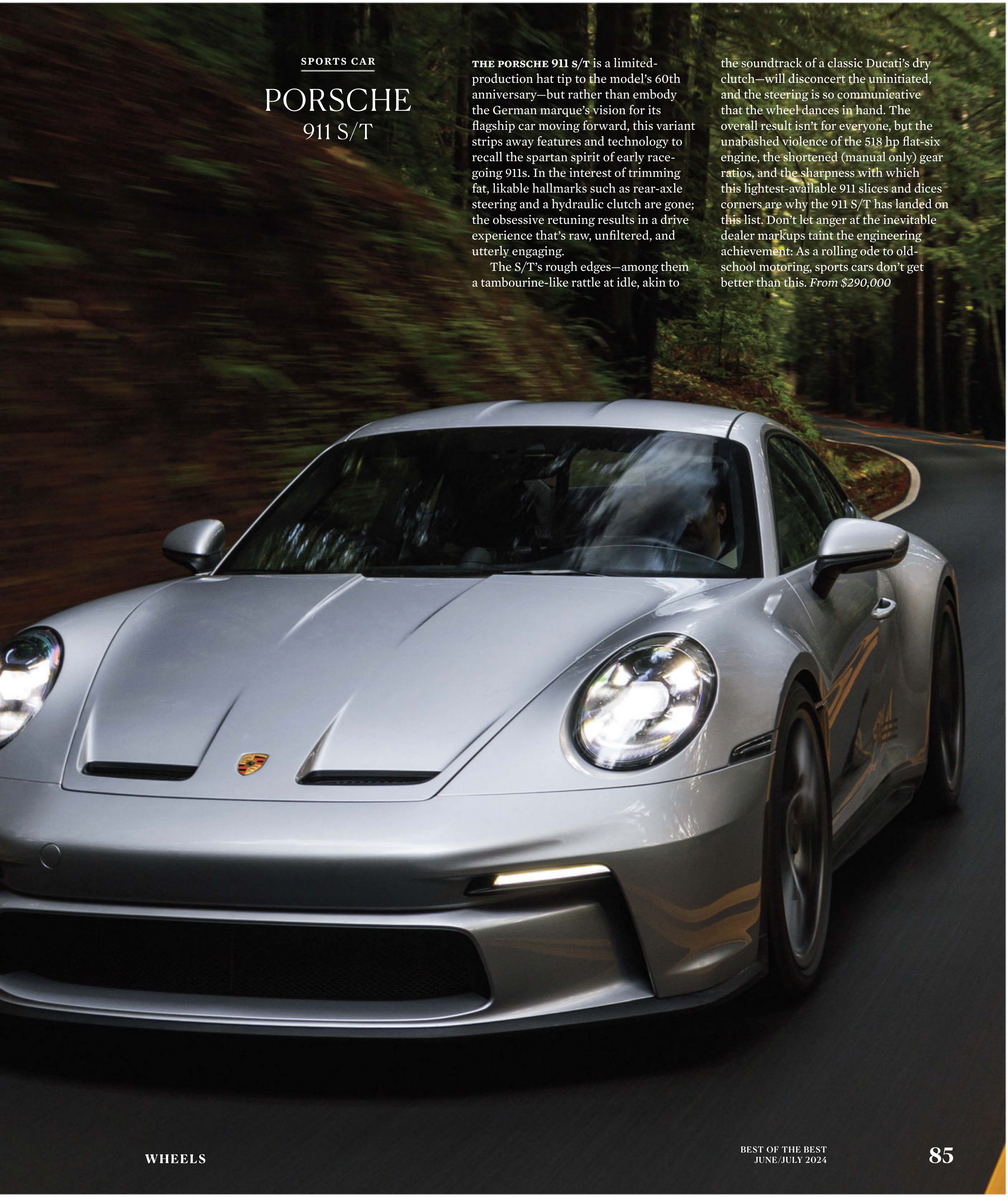
SPORTS CAR

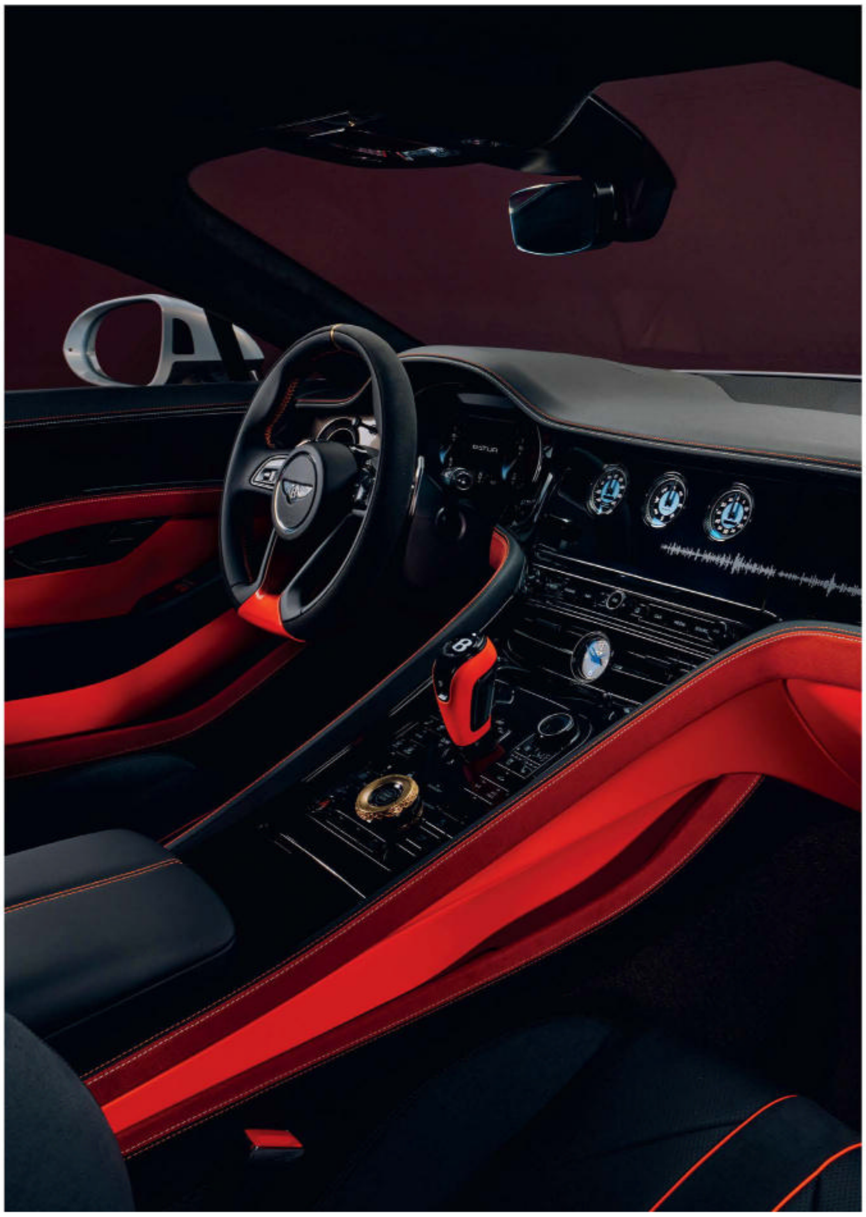
PORSCHE

911 S/T

THE PORSCHE 911 S/T is a limited-production hat tip to the model's 60th anniversary—but rather than embody the German marque's vision for its flagship car moving forward, this variant strips away features and technology to recall the spartan spirit of early race-going 911s. In the interest of trimming fat, likable hallmarks such as rear-axle steering and a hydraulic clutch are gone; the obsessive retuning results in a drive experience that's raw, unfiltered, and utterly engaging.

The S/T's rough edges—among them a tambourine-like rattle at idle, akin to the soundtrack of a classic Ducati's dry clutch—will disconcert the uninitiated, and the steering is so communicative that the wheel dances in hand. The overall result isn't for everyone, but the unabashed violence of the 518 hp flat-six engine, the shortened (manual only) gear ratios, and the sharpness with which this lightest-available 911 slices and dices corners are why the 911 S/T has landed on this list. Don't let anger at the inevitable dealer markups taint the engineering achievement: As a rolling ode to old-school motoring, sports cars don't get better than this. *From $290,000*





INTERIOR

BENTLEY

Batur

OUTGOING BENTLEY BOSS Adrian Hallmark—soon to be CEO at Aston Martin—pioneered the automaker's so-called industrialization of personalization, which now translates to approximately 40 percent of Bentleys leaving the factory with bespoke options from the Mulliner coachbuilding division.

The 740 hp Bentley Batur, based on the Continental GT Speed, takes this customization to the next level, as each of the 18 examples is unique to its owner's specifications. Inside, there's a pleasing moratorium on plastic, with controls such as the air-vent organ stops and drive-mode dial available in titanium or 3-D-printed 18-karat gold. Also optional: a 20-speaker Naim audio system, one of the best we've heard in a production car.

The Batur flexes on sustainable materials, too. Its sculpted bucket seats can be hand-trimmed in low-carbon leather from Scotland or a leatherlike material made from the husks of coffee beans. A flax-based composite for the dashboard veneer can also be requested, as can deep-pile carpets derived from recycled yarn. The two-seater even offers tailored luggage occupying a shelf that replaces the Continental's rear seats—though just spending time in this seven-figure enclave may be all the escape required. *From $2.1 million*

ELECTRIC VEHICLE

ROLLS-ROYCE

Spectre

FOR MANY OF the world's most prestigious automakers, the muted driving characteristics of zero-emissions power trains are at odds with their most visceral and long-standing brand signifiers, from engine notes to transmission tuning. Not so for smooth and silent Rolls-Royce, whose ethereal Spectre EV only enhances the 120-year-old marque's signature feel. It utilizes two electric motors (making nearly 664 ft lbs of torque) and a 120 kWh battery, a combination that allows the 584 hp Spectre to hit 60 mph from a standstill in 4.4 seconds despite its 6,371-pound curb weight. The drive is nimbler than expected; handling is refined by rear-wheel steering and a bolstered aluminum space-frame chassis, with the Spectre sporting a 30 percent increase in structural rigidity compared to its Ghost sibling. But between the electronically limited top speed of 155 mph, overly aggressive regen braking, and an EPA-estimated 266-mile range, this is a vehicle meant for long cruises behind the wheel or shorter jaunts in the back seat. The interior showcases Goodwood's first entirely digital dash and, complementing the Starlight Headliner, the new Starlight Door treatment with 4,796 LED lights—a fitting accent for Rolls-Royce's stellar all-electric debut. *From $420,000*

ROLLS-ROYCE: JAMES LIPMAN

SIMONE CAVADINI

MOTORCYCLE

DUCATI

Multistrada V4 RS

THE 180 HP Ducati Multistrada V4 RS is a track-day missile that can also go the distance as a tourer. Its free-revving V4 power plant is derived from that of Ducati's Panigale V4 superbike, contributing to the exceptional athleticism of a machine that still retains the versatility inherent to the innovative Multistrada line—a performance-to-utility ratio that was almost unthinkable a decade ago.

The bike's multifaceted nature is evident in its four ride modes: Race, Sport, Touring, and Urban. Along with its 1,103 cc Desmosedici Stradale engine, the Multistrada V4 RS owes its performance in part to weight-reduction measures that include an aluminum-monocoque frame, a titanium subframe, a single-sided aluminum swingarm, and Marchesini forged-aluminum wheels. Then there's the trick electronics suite, complete with adaptive cruise control (thanks to front and rear radar tech), blind-spot detection, and a host of nannies to help control all that output. We can vouch for the bike's performance bona fides on a closed circuit, but definitely tick the box for the optional panniers—the Multistrada V4 RS also wants to devour long stretches of pavement. A comfortable tourer that could embarrass a five-year-old sportbike on track? Yes, please. *$37,995*

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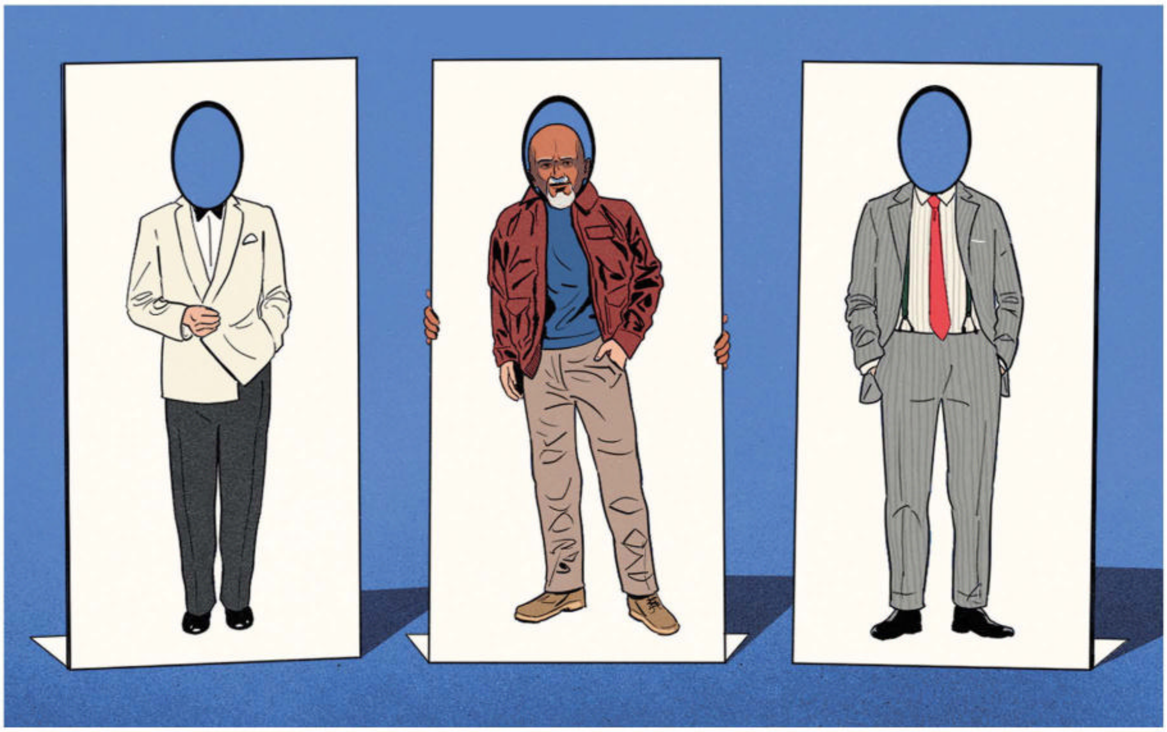
STYLE

By Aleks Cvetkovic, Josh Condon, and Justin Fenner



THE BIG IDEA

FILM-SCHOOLED

WHO IS YOUR idea of an all-time-great style icon? The gunslinging Yul Brynner in *The Magnificent Seven*? An ice-cool Steve McQueen in *The Thomas Crown Affair*? Or perhaps no one has done it better than a tuxedo-clad Humphrey Bogart in *Casablanca*. No matter who springs to mind, there's a good chance one of menswear's top designers agrees with you. That's because today's sleekest collections are putting a fresh spin on yesteryear's sharpest-dressed film characters.

Inspired by *American Psycho*'s Patrick Bateman, Saint Laurent's fall '24 collection is built around imposing double-breasted suits, shirting, and ties. The suiting hews to 1980s proportions, with generous jackets and high-waisted, voluminous trousers; in the hands of creative director Anthony Vaccarello, the power suit has seldom looked chicer. Prada's tailoring, with plenty of three-button jackets in evidence, is boxier but still louche, styled with contrast-collar dress shirts and flashy ties—a playful nod to 1990s tycoon style.

Other high-profile designers have explored a range of sartorial archetypes of late. Pharrell Williams at Louis Vuitton celebrates Western wear in all its glory. The second collection designed by Williams, fall '24 is colorful and inventive, all the while elevating clothes that have historically been rugged and functional. Whether you're drawn to the embroidered riding coats or pixel-patterned trucker jackets, cowboy style has a new, luxe image.

Meanwhile, Dunhill has just unveiled an impressive reboot. In February, the brand showcased looks inspired by the timeless suavity of Clark Gable and Cary Grant, packed with romanticized references to old Hollywood—think polished three-piece suits, double-breasted overcoats, pleated pants, and cravats. It's a glamorously classic collection made for would-be aristocrats the world over.

The preppy has made a comeback, too, in the hands of labels such as Rhude, where baggy knits are layered beneath tweed sport coats and varsity jackets abound. Elsewhere, Tom Ford and Todd Snyder are channeling the lounge lizard in all his slightly sinister glory, equal parts *American Gigolo* and De Niro in *Casino,* with slinky tailoring, silky shirts, and bold colors.

As brands choose to revisit some of menswear's most cinematic genres, it's a good moment to reconnect with a few of your own sartorial muses. Perhaps it's time to order that sophisticated pinstriped suit you've always wanted or indulge in that cognac-colored leather driving coat you're inexplicably drawn to.

Yuppie, preppy, cowboy, or rake? This season, the choice is yours.

ILLUSTRATION BY Emmanuel Polanco

SHIRTS

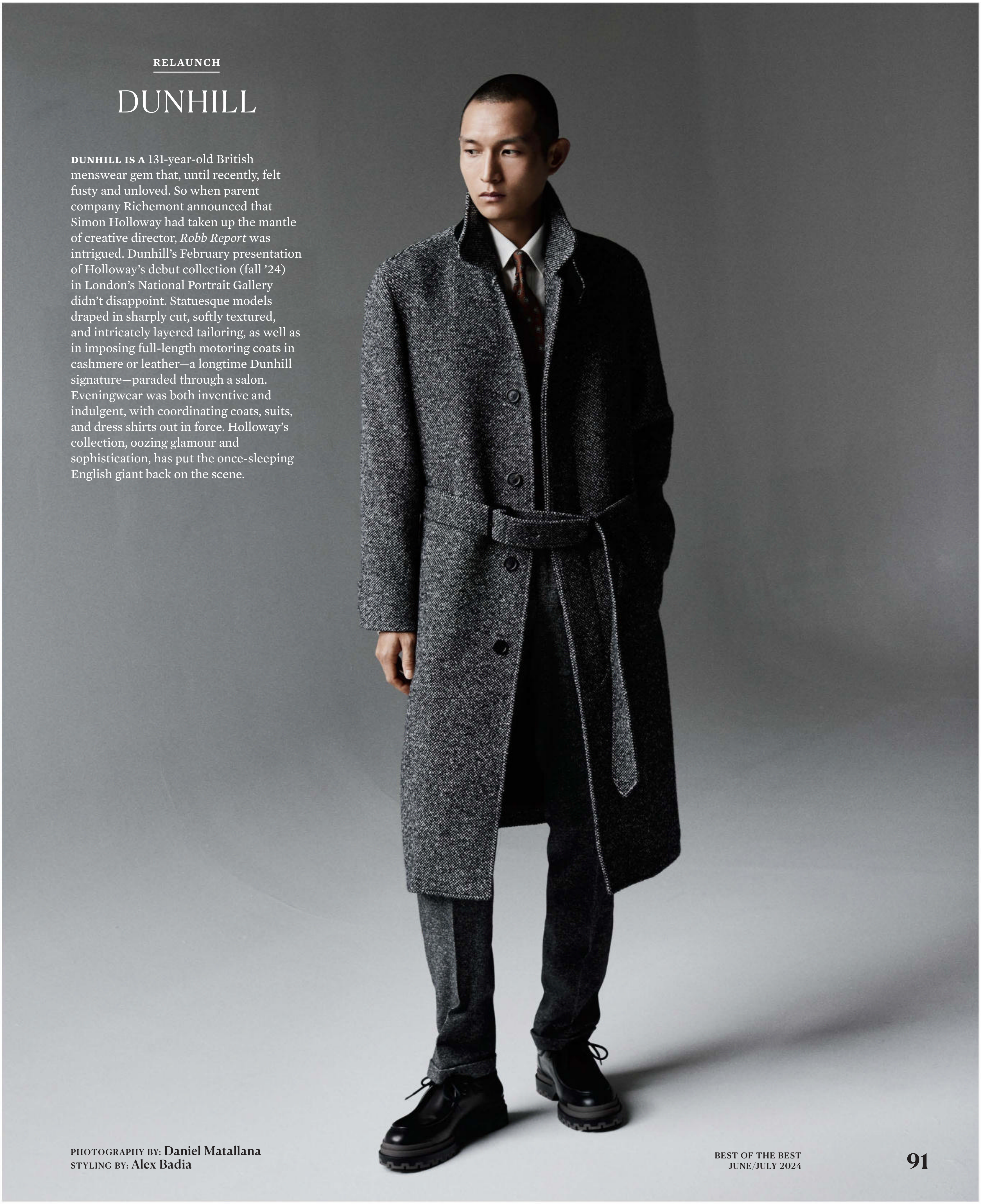
BRIONI

BRIONI IS A Best of the Best regular for good reason. In the hands of design director Norbert Stumpfl, the brand has become synonymous with understated elegance via its meticulously crafted tailoring. The shirts are similarly impressive, from expertly cut classic business and dress shirts to modern and unexpectedly casual styles. The Vagabond Overshirt is a standout—and perhaps the perfect expression of that contemporary genre. Generously proportioned with a soft spread collar and pleated chest pockets, it's practical but smart at the same time. Stumpfl and his team render the style in Brioni's signature "splittable" wool-and-cashmere blend, in which the faces (i.e., outer surfaces) of two separate fabrics are invisibly woven together to create an overshirt that's as refined on the inside as it is on the outside.

RELAUNCH

DUNHILL

DUNHILL IS A 131-year-old British menswear gem that, until recently, felt fusty and unloved. So when parent company Richemont announced that Simon Holloway had taken up the mantle of creative director, *Robb Report* was intrigued. Dunhill's February presentation of Holloway's debut collection (fall '24) in London's National Portrait Gallery didn't disappoint. Statuesque models draped in sharply cut, softly textured, and intricately layered tailoring, as well as in imposing full-length motoring coats in cashmere or leather—a longtime Dunhill signature—paraded through a salon. Eveningwear was both inventive and indulgent, with coordinating coats, suits, and dress shirts out in force. Holloway's collection, oozing glamour and sophistication, has put the once-sleeping English giant back on the scene.



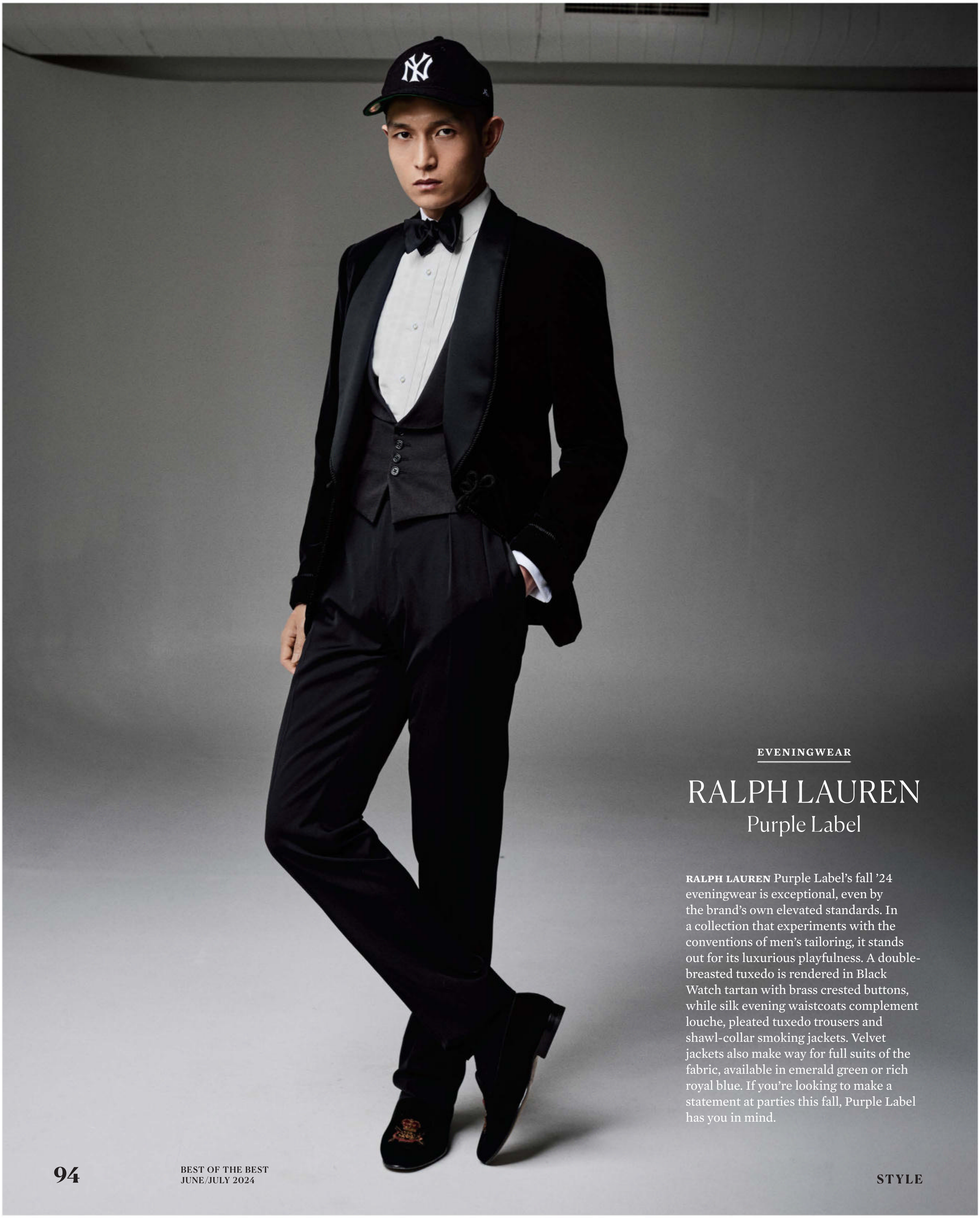
PHOTOGRAPHY BY: Daniel Matallana
STYLING BY: Alex Badia

KNITWEAR

STEFANO RICCI

Alpha Yarn Cashmere

THERE'S CASHMERE, there's superlative cashmere, and then there's Stefano Ricci cashmere woven from the Florentine brand's new Alpha Yarn. One of the finest fabrics on Earth, Alpha Yarn is sourced from Alashan, a remote region of Inner Mongolia. The fiber itself measures just 13.5 microns in diameter (a human hair can measure anywhere within the range of 50 to 120 microns) and is collected by hand-combing the extra-fine undercoats (a.k.a. belly hairs) of juvenile Hircus goats. Dyed, spun, and knitted into a pullover, Alpha Yarn is extraordinarily soft, lightweight, and strong—knitwear to invest in.

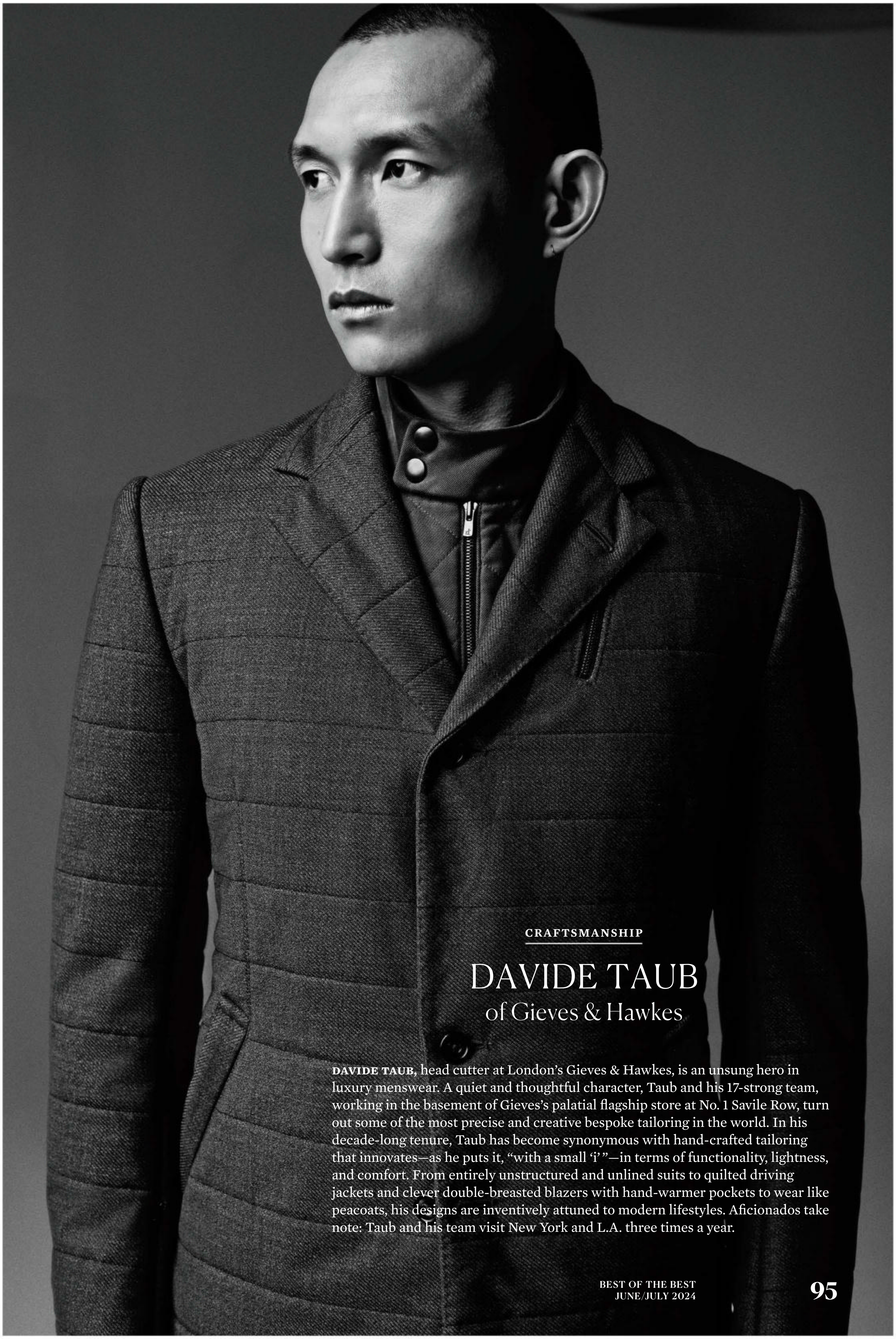


EVENINGWEAR

RALPH LAUREN

Purple Label

RALPH LAUREN Purple Label's fall '24 eveningwear is exceptional, even by the brand's own elevated standards. In a collection that experiments with the conventions of men's tailoring, it stands out for its luxurious playfulness. A double-breasted tuxedo is rendered in Black Watch tartan with brass crested buttons, while silk evening waistcoats complement louche, pleated tuxedo trousers and shawl-collar smoking jackets. Velvet jackets also make way for full suits of the fabric, available in emerald green or rich royal blue. If you're looking to make a statement at parties this fall, Purple Label has you in mind.



CRAFTSMANSHIP

DAVIDE TAUB

of Gieves & Hawkes

DAVIDE TAUB, head cutter at London's Gieves & Hawkes, is an unsung hero in luxury menswear. A quiet and thoughtful character, Taub and his 17-strong team, working in the basement of Gieves's palatial flagship store at No. 1 Savile Row, turn out some of the most precise and creative bespoke tailoring in the world. In his decade-long tenure, Taub has become synonymous with hand-crafted tailoring that innovates—as he puts it, "with a small 'i' "—in terms of functionality, lightness, and comfort. From entirely unstructured and unlined suits to quilted driving jackets and clever double-breasted blazers with hand-warmer pockets to wear like peacoats, his designs are inventively attuned to modern lifestyles. Aficionados take note: Taub and his team visit New York and L.A. three times a year.

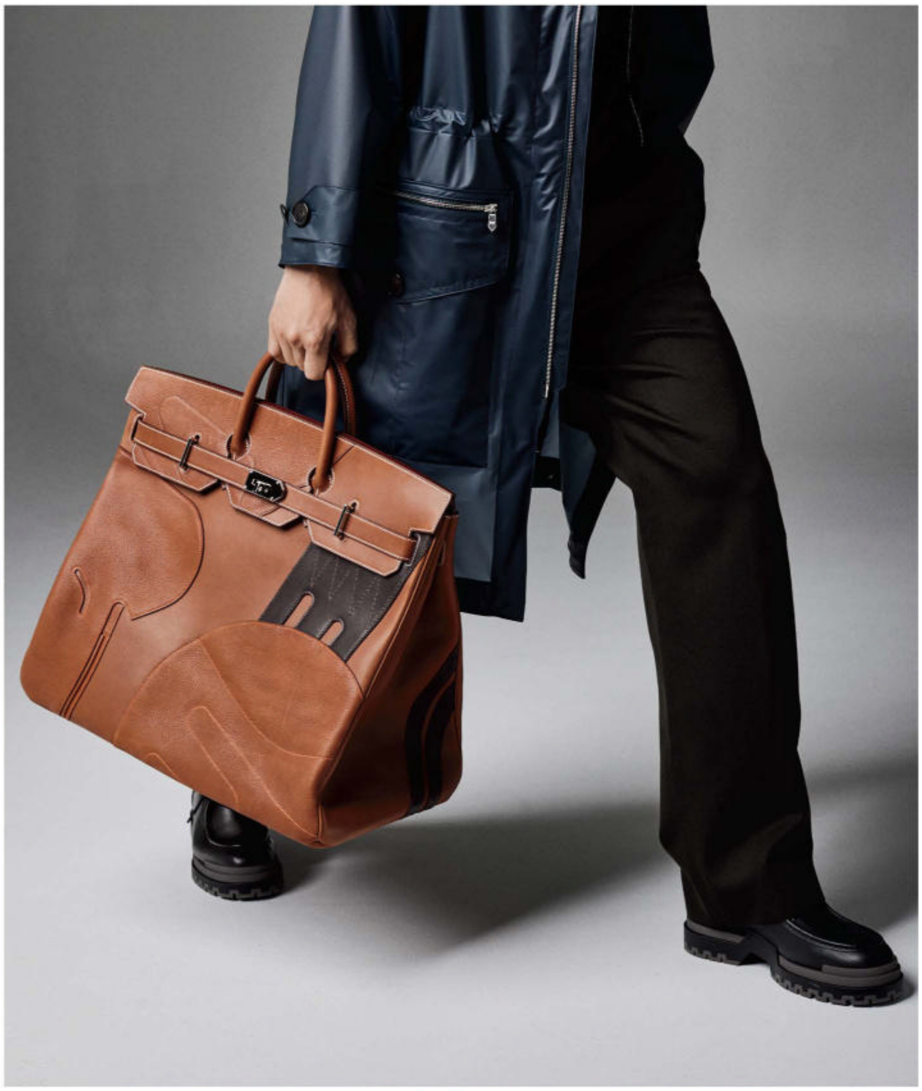
TIES

E. MARINELLA

IT'S EASY TO think of ties as two-dimensional objects—they're essentially flat lengths of folded silk, after all. But not all ties are folded equally. The best handmade ones have a subtle and pleasing roundness, a fullness of shape that helps them sit comfortably on the neck and form the neatest of knots day after day. E. Marinella, established in 1914, combines Italian silks hand-printed in England, then cut and sewn in Naples, with traditional seven-fold and even nine-fold tie constructions. Draping several feet of fabric on itself nine times, then gently pressing it and stitching it into shape (with one single thread along the tie's length that's tacked in place at both ends) is no easy feat, so every tie is made by hand in the brand's Neapolitan atelier.

The Archivio Collection—easy-wearing, three-fold ties made from characterful silks reissued from E. Marinella's fabric archives—is worth a look, too. Each piece features the year when the print was first designed sewn onto the back of the blade.

E. MARINELLA
NAPOLI
ARCHIVE 1930



LEATHER GOODS

HERMÈS

Haut à Courroies Hac En Selle

SINCE ITS INCEPTION as a generously proportioned equestrian bag in the 1920s, the Hermès Haut à Courroies (HAC for short) has remained iconic. A "high belt bag" in English, the HAC was created with a belted closure to secure all the paraphernalia a rider might need to carry, including a helmet, saddle—even bridle and reins. Despite (or perhaps because of) its specialized design, the HAC quickly became the weekender of choice for the social elite and, six decades later, the archetype for the smaller Birkin handbag. In recent years, it has made a return to vogue for men in search of a stylish carryall with impressive pedigree, and this version in tan—finished with different reliefs inspired by the shape of a saddle—nods to the HAC's rarefied origins.

TAILORING

CESARE ATTOLINI

NEAPOLITAN TAILORING brands can veer toward the theatrical on occasion.. This year's winner for Best Tailoring, though, is anything but. Cesare Attolini's suits and separates are the height of classicism, elegantly executed in some of the most exceptional (and understated) textiles around. Fabric is a big thing for the Attolini family. In a departure from most houses' M.O., clothing here is pressed and left to rest between key stages of the making process, allowing the material to "settle" into shape after it has been worked by one of Attolini's 130 tailors, each of whom sews garments entirely and painstakingly by hand, using traditional techniques. No wonder a single suit takes an average of 25 to 30 hours to complete.

OUTERWEAR

BRUNELLO CUCINELLI

SIGNOR BRUNELLO, as he's affectionately known, has unveiled his sporty side. In addition to his tailored brisk-weather staples—expect imposing greatcoats and sleek peacoats—this coming fall will offer plenty to choose from in terms of handsome tan and chocolate-brown leathers with intricate shearling details. Whether bombers, knee-length car coats, or asymmetric-fronted jackets that nod to classic biker styles, the house's outerwear has a freshly rugged sensibility. Layer over one of Cucinelli's impeccable flannel blazers or a chunky roll-neck.

GAP
2024
PALACE

COLLABORATION

PALACE x GAP

SINCE ITS FOUNDING in 2009, Palace has grown from a niche British skater brand into a global style phenomenon—partially through ingenious collaborations with the likes of Mercedes-AMG, Polo Ralph Lauren, and Juventus. Palace's latest tie-in, with Gap, landed in March, and its heady mix of prep, quirk, and nostalgia is spot-on. Exploring Gap's 1990s archives and its enduring connection to skaters and athletes, Palace has reissued retro hits including vivid, color-blocked rugby shirts, varsity jackets, oversize oxford shirts with dropped shoulders, and boldly striped windbreakers. Perhaps most recognizable: a fresh take on the decade's jersey hoodie, with its graphic chest-emblazoned Gap logo replaced by "Pal," in Palace's honor.

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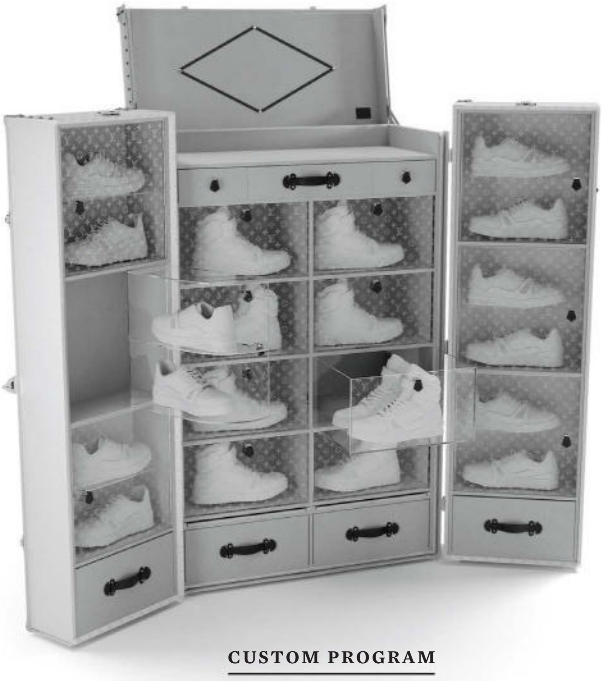

CUSTOM PROGRAM

LOUIS VUITTON

Hard-Sided Trunks

IT'S TOUGH to keep a 170-year-old product feeling relevant, let alone fresh, yet when Louis Vuitton's *Crafting Dreams* exhibit landed in New York in April, its multiform assortment of one-of-a-kind hard-sided trunks could not have felt more of the moment. The current vogue for all things "old money aesthetic" surely helps—a particularly apropos boost for a category of luggage whose heyday is inextricably linked with the golden age of steamship travel—but the sheer variety on display throughout seven stories of a Park Avenue penthouse was commission-worthy inspiration all its own. From a transportable mini casino to a towering humidor, sneaker locker, watch vault, and more, the invitation-only presentation was a movable feast of design and engineering, and a reminder that the joy of exploration has long involved joining the unknown with the familiar. Plus, there may be no better canvas (literally) for Damoflage, Pharrell Williams's contemporary take on LV's signature Damier pattern.

RETAIL

THOM SWEENEY

READERS WHO SPEND time shopping in London or New York will doubtless be familiar with Thom Sweeney's two emporiums. Both are beautifully designed stores with space to kick back with a coffee or cocktail in hand, as well as to spend. The idea is to create an environment like a members' club, where you can visit your tailor, indulge in retail therapy, and then while away a pleasant afternoon playing pool with the Thom Sweeney gang. In March, the brand opened its third store, a speakeasy-like loft space on Melrose Place in Los Angeles, which is designed to continue the theme. Featuring polished-mahogany walls, a state-of-the-art sound system, and a custom-built bar, it's worthy of Thom Sweeney muse Steve McQueen himself. Another is set to follow in Miami in the fall. This U.S. expansion is welcome news, bringing with it one of the most quietly sophisticated experiences in menswear.

EYEWEAR

E. B. MEYROWITZ

***ROBB REPORT* HAS** previously explored the intricate processes that go into creating a pair of E. B. Meyrowitz's custom-made spectacles and sunglasses, but the London-based brand's ready-to-wear collection—crafted to the same exacting standards and using the same exceptional materials—has grown substantially in recent years. The attention paid to the design and delicate proportions of each frame, from the intellectual-looking, rounded Bloomsbury to the robust and angular Wyndham, is as impressive as the consideration put into the brand's bespoke offerings. And, with Meyrowitz hosting trunk shows in no fewer than 11 U.S. cities, there's no excuse not to try a pair (or two).

MODEL: Zhang Wenhui
GROOMING: Anneliese Tieck
CASTING AND MARKET: Luis Campuzano
PHOTO ASSISTANT: Andres Ceyallos

. . . AND THE BEST GROOMING PRODUCTS OF THE YEAR

FRAGRANCE

BRUNELLO CUCINELLI

Pour Homme

BRUNELLO
CUCINELLI

IS IT ANY WONDER Brunello Cucinelli's debut men's fragrance, unveiled last September, already has so many fans? The scent, inspired by the Umbrian countryside, was conceived with master perfumer Olivier Cresp. It centers on Italy's beloved Calabrian bergamot, cypress, juniper berries, and clary sage, combining them with other notes that result in a citrusy, herbaceous olfactory experience. Over the course of the day, these elements yield to a masculine blend of wood and amber that feels grounded and relaxed.

But it doesn't just smell good. The 150 ml size is compatible with a refilling system. And all containers are made of glass and aluminum, meaning you can recycle them when you're done. *$210 for 100 ml, $280 for 150 ml*

SERUM

EXPONENT

Brightening Boost

EXPONENT
EXPONENT

VITAMIN-C SERUM inspires a lot of debate. Its titular ingredient is clinically proven to reduce wrinkles, brighten dark spots, and even enhance the protecting effects of SPF. But it's also highly unstable when exposed to light, air, and water, the chief component of most serums.

Exponent preserves the potency of its vitamin C by keeping it in a dry, powdered form. To apply it, you put one pump's worth of the stuff into your palm, then mix in another pump of the hyaluronic-acid serum it comes with. The result is a gentle yet powerful product that delivers results. Our use produced noticeably reduced acne scarring—and we started getting compliments around the two-week mark. *$98*

HAIR CARE

PLATED

Hair Serum

(plated)
SKIN SCIENCE
HAIR
SERUM

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN cardiologists start making skin-care products? Plated, a line of exosome-rich serums for the face, was founded in 2022 by two doctors researching regenerative medicine. When they found that ingredients derived from human blood platelets can influence aging cells to behave more like young ones, they used them to develop a trio of impressive formulas.

That technology is now available for your scalp. Plated's Hair Serum, which debuted in January, was designed to not only reduce breaking and shedding but to also increase the appearance of density. While the jury is still out on whether it can replace tried-and-true medications, we've observed thicker hair and faster growth in our own use. *$389*

EYE CREAM

LA PRAIRIE

Skin Caviar Eye Lift

SKIN CAVIAR
EYE LIFT
LA PRAIRIE

EYE CREAMS ARE infamous for overpromising and underdelivering. But La Prairie's update to its cult favorite Skin Caviar Eye Lift took one that produces observable results and improved it. The product already had a potent blend of antioxidants. The Swiss company added a double dose of caviar-derived nutrients, plus its patented and trademarked Exclusive Cellular Complex. (The formula is so closely guarded that two labs produce its components and a third combines them. Only HQ knows what's in its final makeup.)

Whatever's in it works. Our personal use produced the most noticeable results of any undereye product we've tried in the past year, including smoother, plumper skin and diminished lines. *$570*

MOISTURIZER

PROTOCOL

Water Lock

Protocol
WATER LOCK

THERE'S NOT A single moisturizer that actually adds hydration. In reality, these tools work to combat transepidermal water loss, or TEWL—that is, water that escapes from your skin. For a long time, highly occlusive ingredients had been regarded as the best moisture protectors—think petroleum jelly or lanolin. The trade-off is that they could feel greasy and even clog pores.

Protocol's Water Lock isn't like that. Its gel formula is a mix of semi-occlusive molecules that link up to stop TEWL while still allowing for airflow. Translation: glowing skin without zits. It's light enough for the summer, but it really shines in fall and winter, when cold, dry air can cause flaky skin and irritation. For us, Water Lock stopped both—and that's the mark of a winner in our book. *$36*

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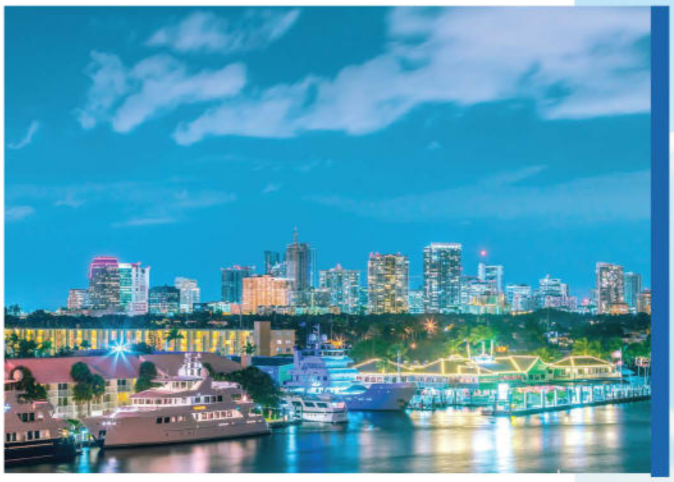

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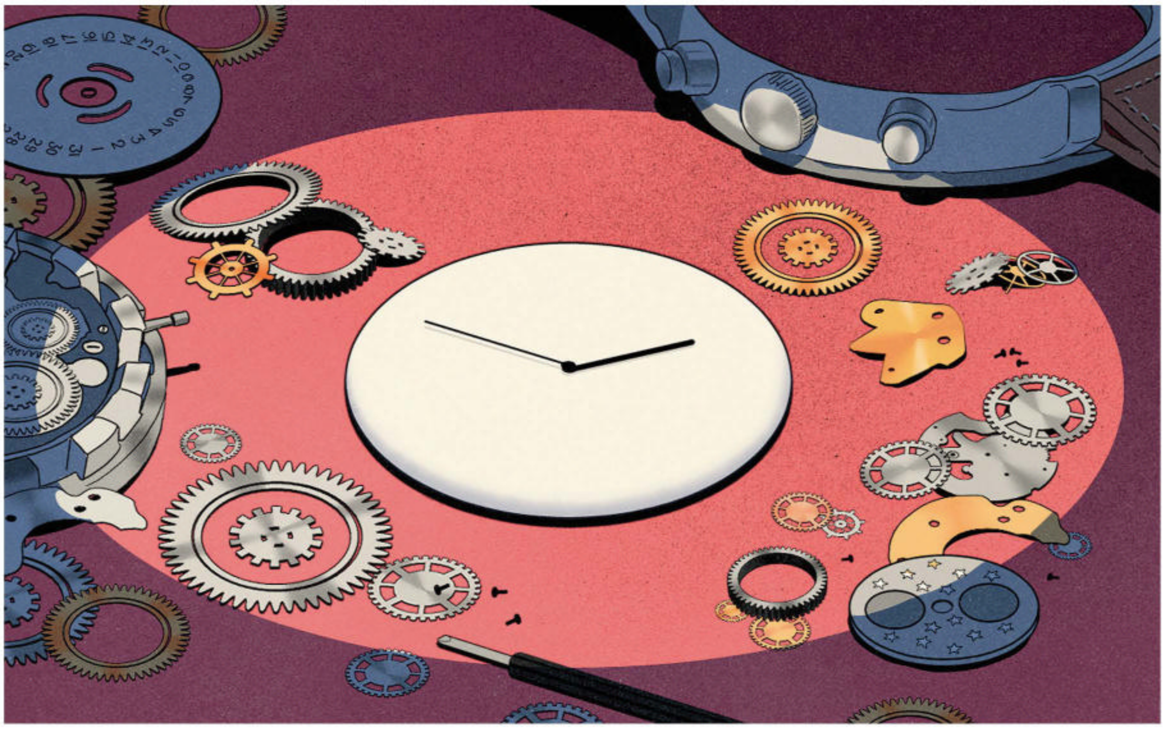
WATCHES

By Paige Reddinger



THE BIG IDEA

BACK TO BASICS

AFTER AN UNPARALLELED pandemic-era boom, an aura of reticence and safety-seeking has settled over the watch industry. Reasons include everything from shoppers having less disposable income to manufactures playing catch-up on early-Covid production delays to—most significantly—global economic uncertainty.

The cool-off was made abundantly clear in April at Watches & Wonders, the world's largest horological trade show. The sector's biggest luxury brands largely played it safe, remixing existing models with minor tweaks—new dial colors, say, or swapping one metal for another. Rolex's most desirable releases were positively subdued compared to its colorful 2023 lineup. The Crown debuted a Day-Date in Everose gold with a slate ombré dial and a GMT-Master II in steel with a gray and black ceramic bezel—not the much hoped-for updated GMT-Master II "Coke"—which didn't exactly send the internet into a frenzy. The other tone-setting titan, Patek Phillipe, offered revised Nautilus and Aquanaut models on straps cut from a material resembling that workwear staple, denim, while the Ellipse got a new gold bracelet. And while it's a great bracelet, overall it's clear that brands weren't splashing out on R&D.

But if 2024's timepieces failed to stir up the same hype as in years past, the rebalancing act should have collectors rejoicing. Dimming the spotlight on the high end of horology may make room for deserving clients to get their hands on new watches, rather than lingering on interminable waiting lists. Softening prices on the secondary market suggest that the speculators who drove up prices over the past few years have started to fall out of the game. If you love watches, there has never been a better time to buy.

And while traditional retailers are said to be struggling in the current environment, brands are investing heavily in their own brick-and-mortar locations—in the U.S. overall, and specifically in New York City. In February, Chanel opened its first dedicated watch and jewelry boutique in the U.S. on Fifth Avenue, only the fourth of its kind. Days later, Grand Seiko cut the ribbon on a new Madison Avenue boutique—its largest store in the world. Jaeger-LeCoultre inaugurated a flagship on Madison Avenue in May, and IWC followed shortly after, setting up shop on the same stretch.

These openings are obviously a sign of major brands banking on the U.S., but they also signify a renewed focus on in-person client relations. As far as long-term success goes, that beats a hype watch any day.

ILLUSTRATION BY Emmanuel Polanco

WATCH OF THE YEAR

BOVET

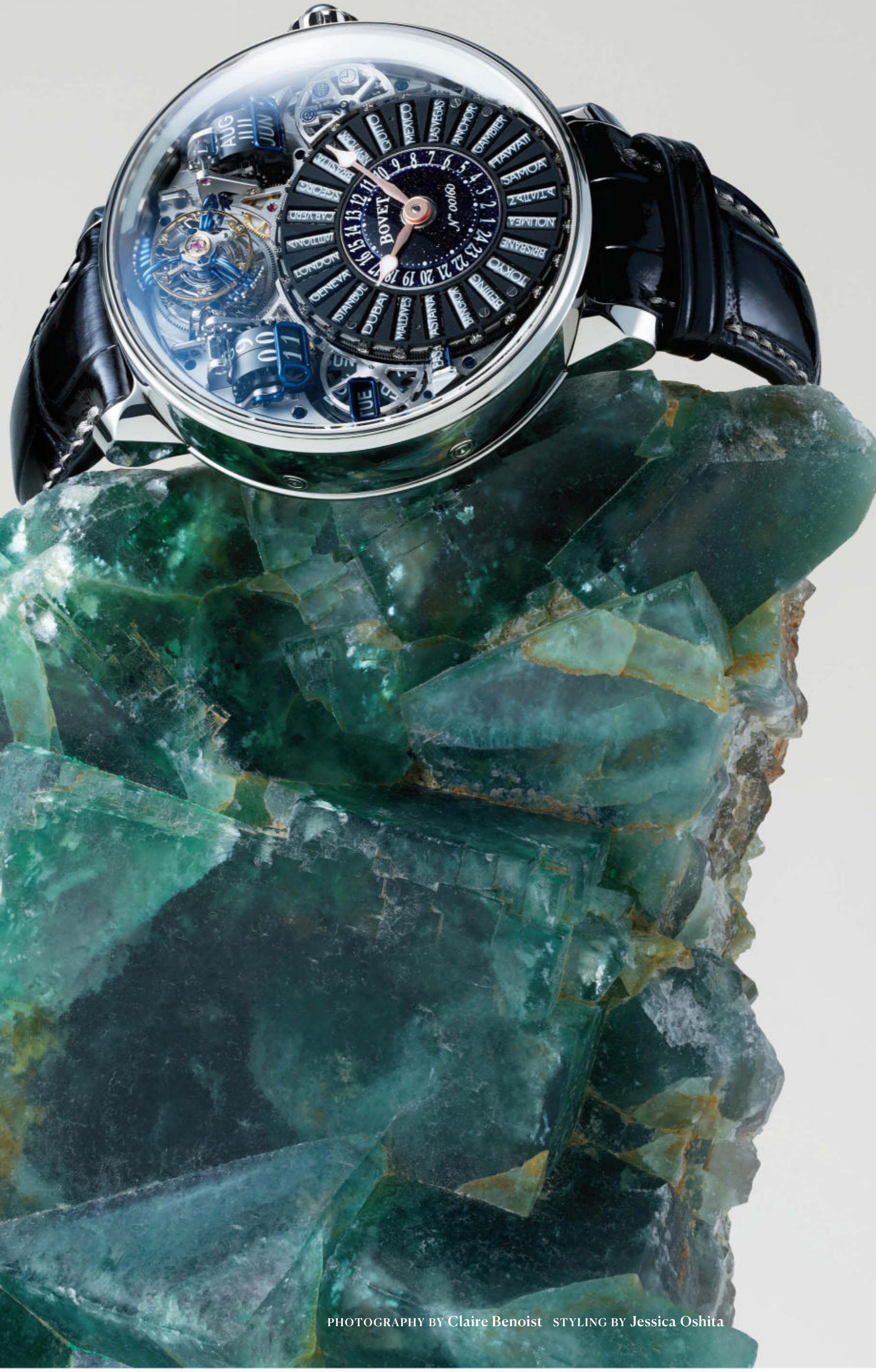
Récital 28 Prowess 1

WHEN WATCHMAKER Louis Cottier invented the world-timer complication in 1931, he created a mechanical wonder that allowed a new era of travelers being able to read time everywhere on the planet simultaneously. But until 2024, watchmakers couldn't figure out how to display differences in daylight saving time. After all, some countries spring forward weeks earlier than others.

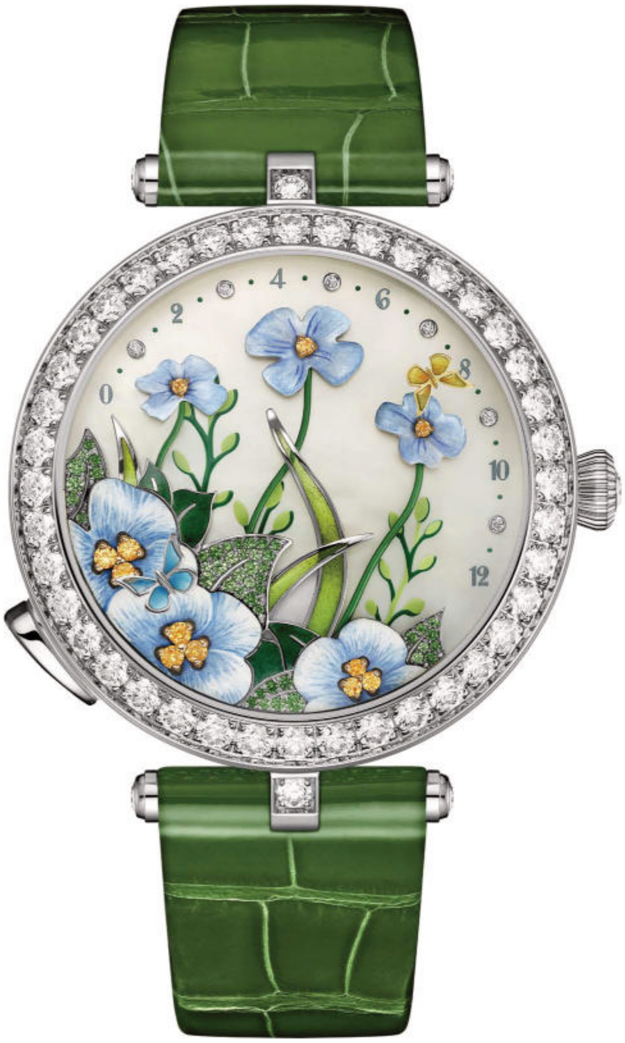
This year, Bovet introduced a solution. The Récital 28 Prowess 1 accounts for variations in American Summer Time (AST), European and American Summer Time (EAS), and European Winter Time (EWT) and displays the 24 global time zones in Coordinated Universal Time (UTC). It cracks the DST problem by applying the cities and time zones to 24 rollers that have four positions (UTC, AST, EAS, and EWT) read on an additional roller to the left of the world-time indication. To change from one mode to another, you simply press the pusher in the crown.

Not satisfied with the complexity of a world's first, Bovet went a step further and threw in a perpetual calendar as well as a flying tourbillon composed of 62 separate parts weighing just 0.35 grams. Packed into the 46.3 mm case is a new movement that achieves a 10-day power reserve.

Almost a century after its invention, the world timer can finally solve a portion of international scheduling issues—just in time for discussions about abandoning DST altogether. But if you consider horology an art form, this is certainly a museum-worthy piece. *$720,000 in titanium; $730,000 in red gold; $762,000 in platinum*



PHOTOGRAPHY BY Claire Benoist STYLING BY Jessica Oshita

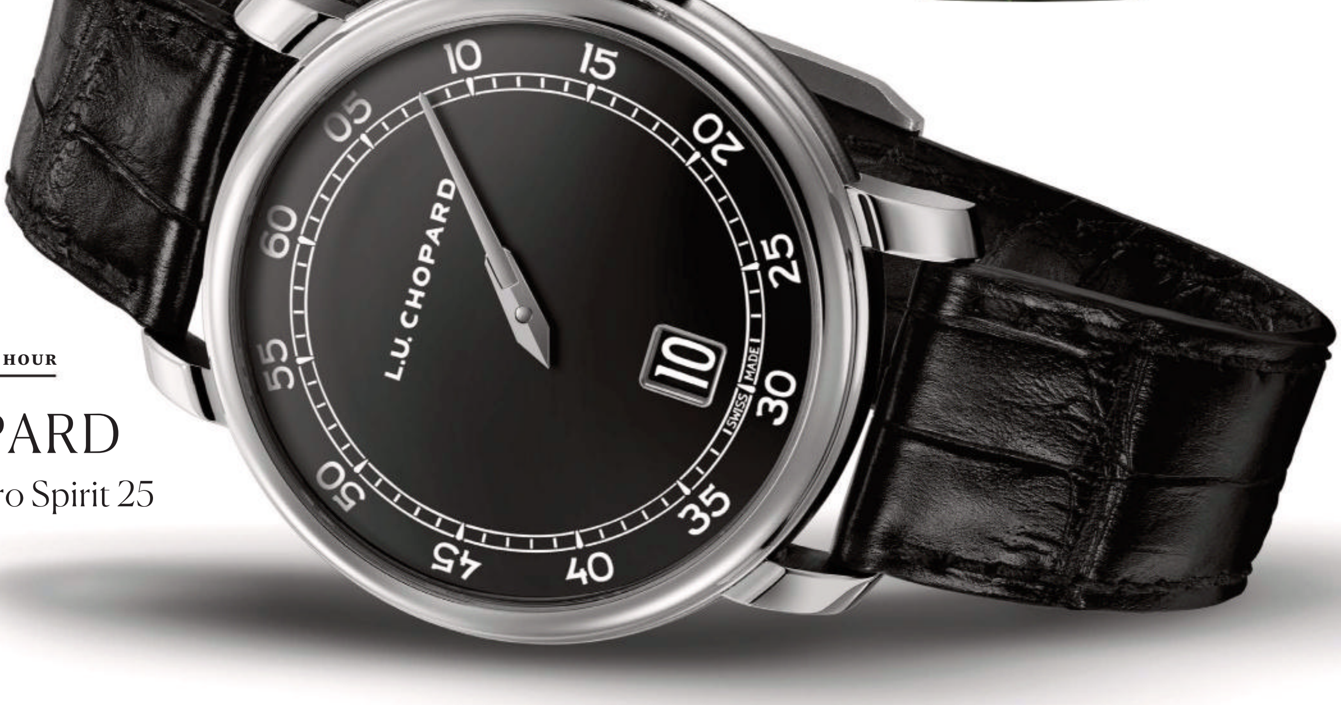


AUTOMATON

VAN CLEEF & ARPELS

Brise d'Été

VAN CLEEF & ARPELS'S mechanical garden is in full bloom again. Following the technically impressive and visually stunning Lady Arpels Heure Florales released in 2022—a Best of the Best winner that uses opening and closing flowers to tell the time—comes an equally charming follow-up in the 38 mm Lady Arpels Brise d'Été, or Summer Breeze. As its name suggests, when you activate the pusher at eight o'clock, the flowers and leaves appear to sway in the wind, as two plique-à-jour-enamel butterflies glide around the periphery to tell the hours and minutes. The stage of this theatrical play is a mother-of-pearl dial, while its actors are adorned in tsavorite and spessartite garnets, miniature painting, and plique-à-jour, champlevé, and vallonné enamel. This is métiers d'art work at its finest. *$177,000*



JUMPING HOUR

CHOPARD

L.U.C Quattro Spirit 25

VAN CLEEF & ARPELS: CLEMENT ROUSSET

"IT'S A BIT OF a selfish approach," Chopard copresident Karl-Friedrich Scheufele told *Robb Report* in April when speaking about his latest pet project: the L.U.C Quattro Spirit 25. "I always loved the idea of a jumping hour, and it's a project we started six or seven years ago." And while other priorities kept it on the back burner, it was always a timepiece Scheufele fervently wanted to get off the ground. This year, it finally debuted in an 18-karat-white-gold case, complete with a deceptively plain black dial and an hour display placed prominently at six o'clock.

Simplicity is often the hardest directive in watchmaking, but it is frequently the one that produces the most beautiful timepieces. The dial is elegantly executed, covered in a glossy, jet-black enamel, with vivid white Arabic hour markers placed around a railway track. The hand-wound L.U.C 98.06-L four-barrel movement is just as considered, with Côtes de Genève finishing and a hefty eight-day power reserve that helped it earn the coveted Poinçon de Genève. The result certainly hits the right note. *$50,200*

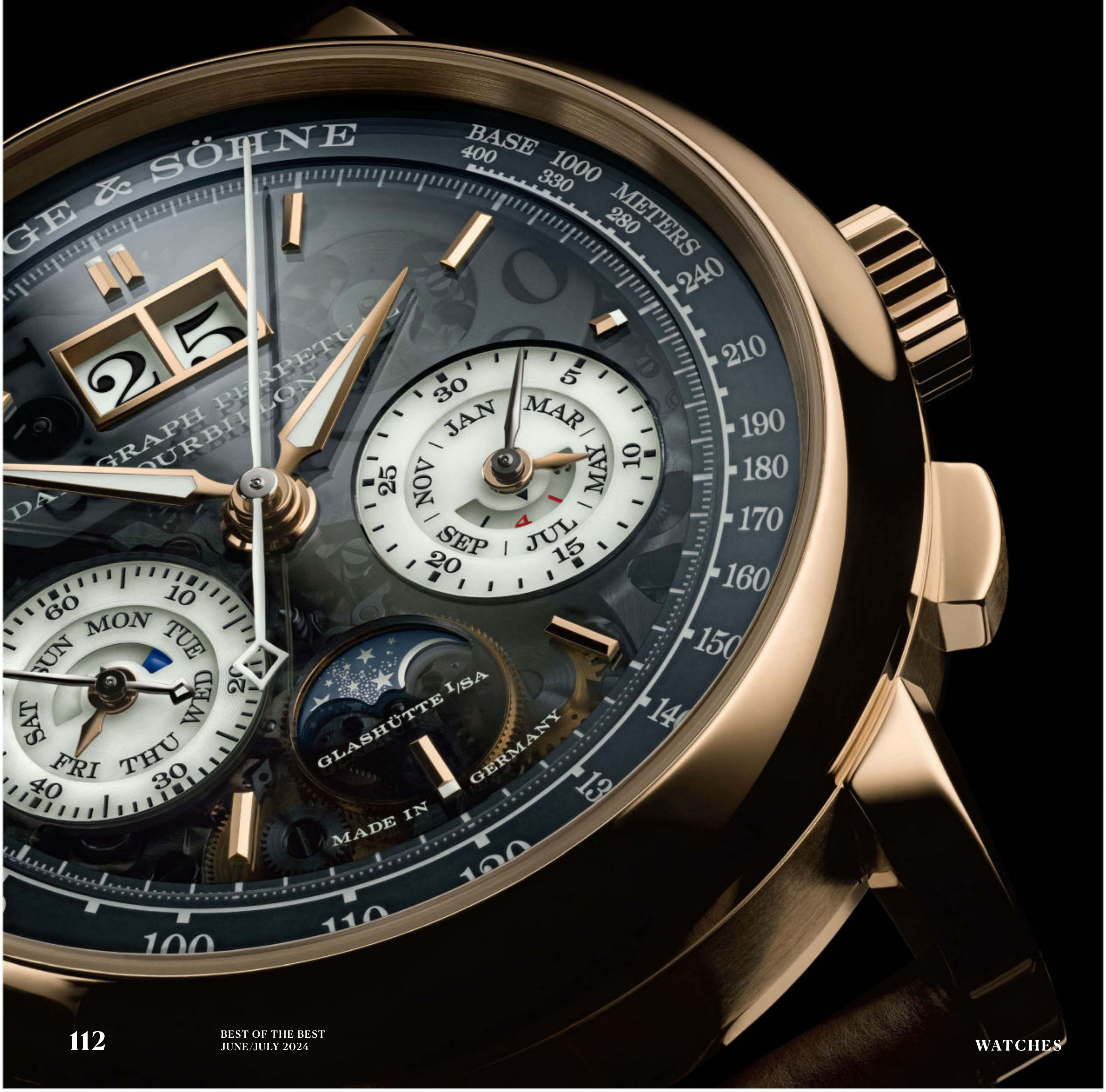
PERPETUAL CALENDAR

A. LANGE & SÖHNE

Datograph Perpetual Tourbillon Honeygold "Lumen"

THE DATOGRAPH PERPETUAL Tourbillon Honeygold "Lumen" combines the crème de la crème of A. Lange & Söhne's achievements, rolling some of the watchmaker's fan-favorite elements into one piece. When the Datograph was launched in 1999, Lange's current director of product development, Anthony de Haas, was working for renowned movement maker Renaud et Papi, and he still remembers being struck by the original. "At that time, during the '90s, the watch industry was gently recovering [from the quartz crisis of the '70s], so no risks were taken," de Haas tells *Robb Report*.

To celebrate the model's 25th anniversary, de Haas and his team conceived of a new model to set tongues wagging once more. The company encased it in Honeygold (Lange's proprietary alloy, known for its soft, elegant hue) and accentuated it with a heavy dose of green luminous coating that lights up the displays and functions. Visible through the smoky sapphire crystal is the hand-finished L952.4 movement, which combines a perpetual calendar, a flyback chronograph with a jumping minute counter, and a tourbillon with a stop-seconds mechanism. Few brands can rival the beauty of a Lange movement, and this one is exceptional. It's the real showpiece and, in discreet German fashion, can only be seen by taking the watch off your wrist for a close-up inspection of its masterful engineering. *$668,000*



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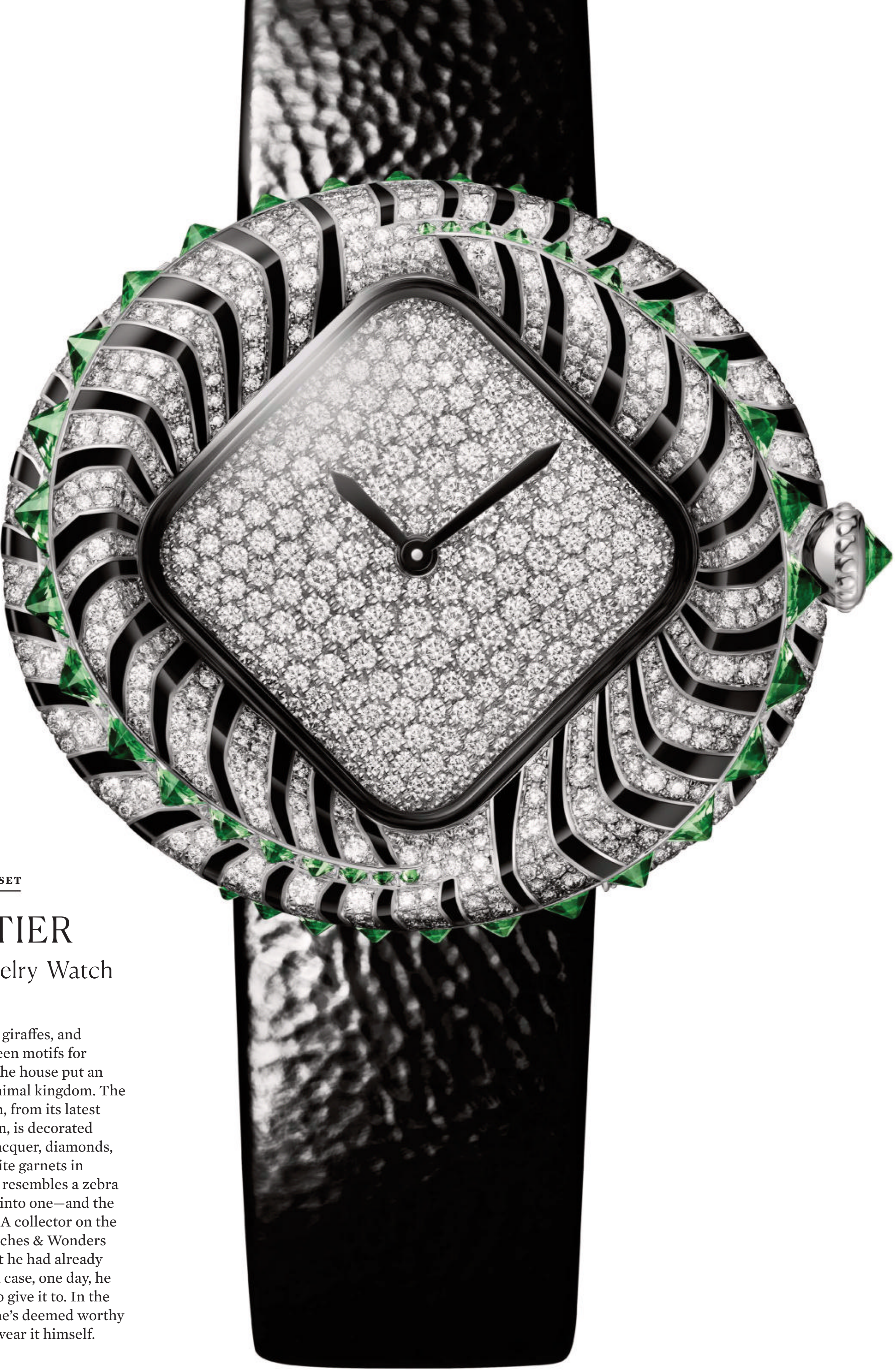


GEM-SET

CARTIER

Animal Jewelry Watch

PANTHERS, CROCODILES, giraffes, and flamingos have long been motifs for Cartier, but this year, the house put an abstract spin on the animal kingdom. The Animal Jewelry Watch, from its latest high-jewelry collection, is decorated with a swirl of black lacquer, diamonds, and reverse-set tsavorite garnets in 18-karat white gold. It resembles a zebra and a crocodile rolled into one—and the effect is mesmerizing. A collector on the return flight from Watches & Wonders in Geneva boasted that he had already placed an order just in case, one day, he has someone special to give it to. In the meantime, he says, if he's deemed worthy of the purchase, he'll wear it himself.
Price upon request

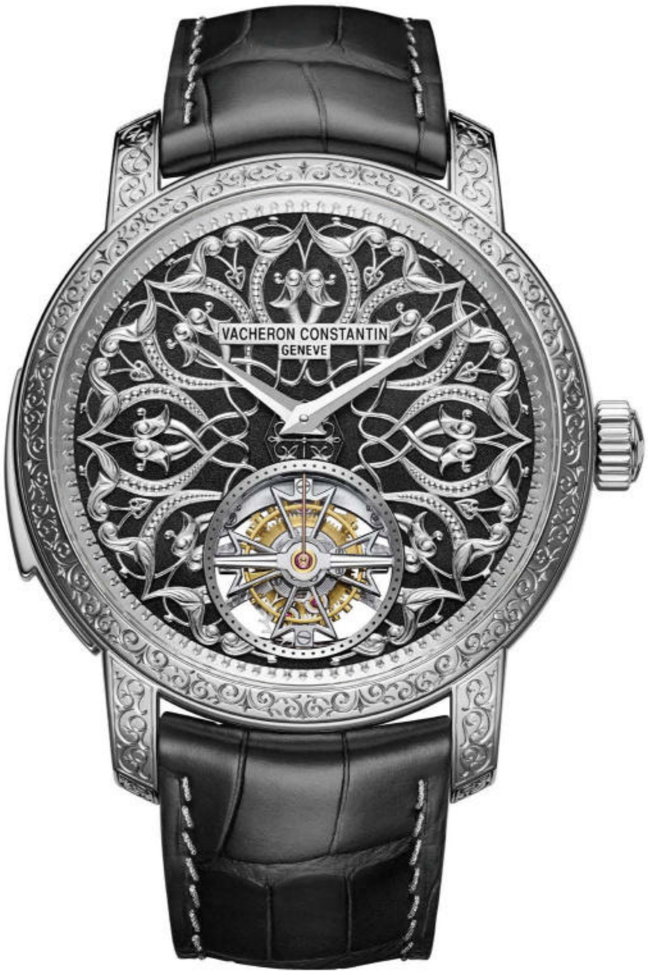
ENGRAVING

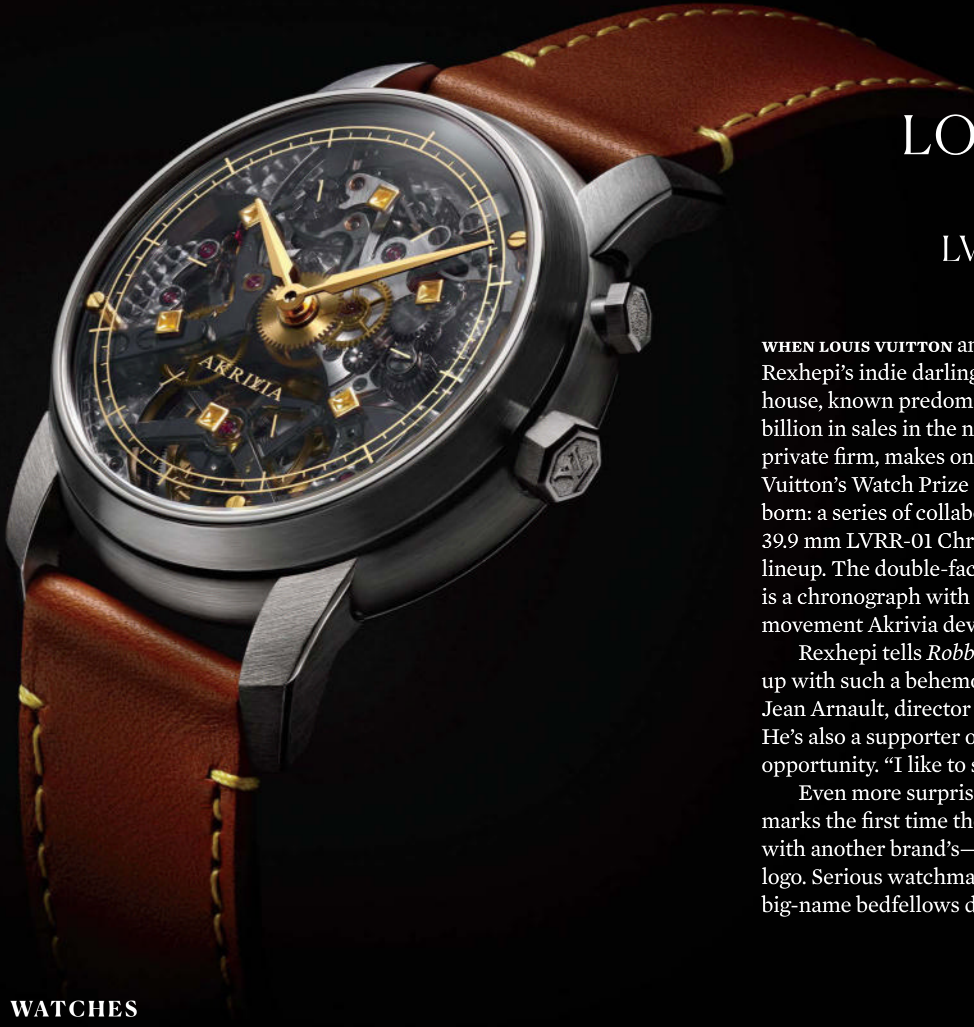
VACHERON CONSTANTIN

Les Cabinotiers Minute Repeater Tourbillon-Tribute to Arabesque

EVERY YEAR, Vacheron Constantin turns out a small group of unique timepieces for its Les Cabinotiers collection, as well as bespoke orders. The most recent offering, unveiled in Dubai last November, was inspired by architectural marvels in locations central to the *maison*'s history. The most extraordinary, the 44 mm by 13.5 mm 18-karat-white-gold Minute Repeater Tourbillon-Tribute to Arabesque, was a celebration of historic Arabic architecture.

Its over-the-top case engraving and bas-relief techniques mimic the intricate patterns on the 82 domed minarets at Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque, the largest in the U.A.E. The open-worked and engraved 18-karat-white-gold dial cover takes some of its cues from meshrabiyehs—cantilevered windows covered by latticed wooden screens. Engraving just one component of a watch at this level is a feat, but decorating the entire case, dial, and flange with this specialized handiwork is downright monumental. *Price upon request*





COLLABORATION

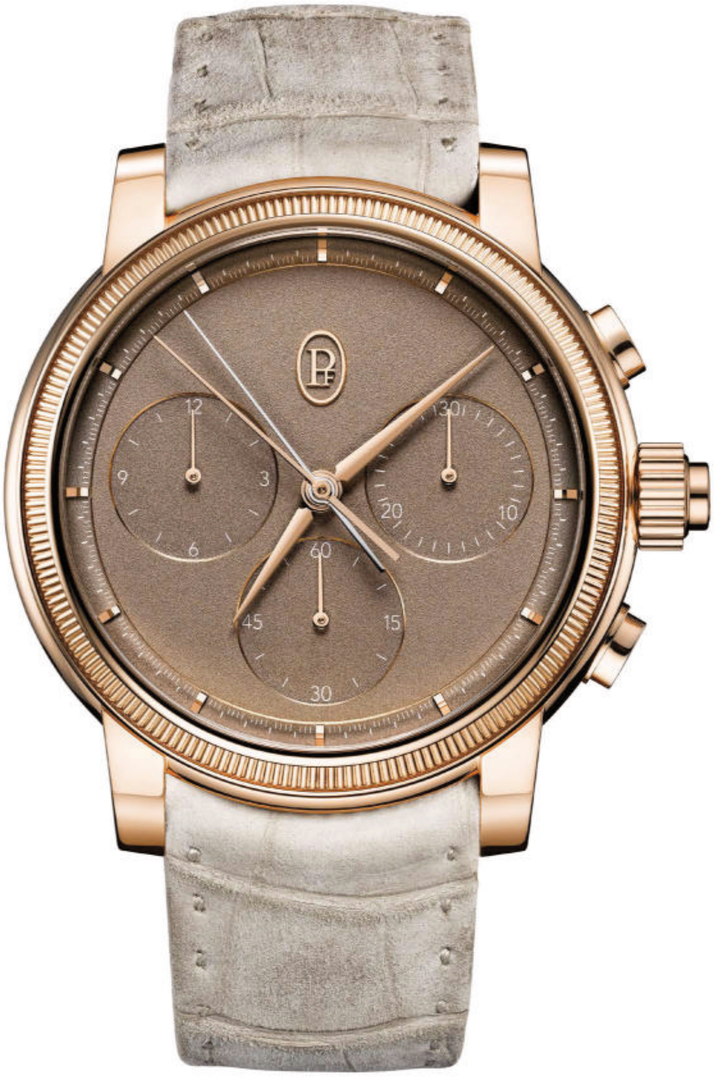
LOUIS VUITTON x AKRIVIA

LVRR-01 Chronographe

WHEN LOUIS VUITTON announced a partnership with watchmaker Rexhep Rexhepi's indie darling, Akrivia, it came as a shock. The French fashion house, known predominantly for its handbags, is on track to reach $32 billion in sales in the next few years according to HSBC. Akrivia, a small, private firm, makes only about 40 watches a year. But thanks to Louis Vuitton's Watch Prize for Independent Creatives, a new concept was born: a series of collaborative timepieces with independent makers. The 39.9 mm LVRR-01 Chronographe, revealed last October, is the first in the lineup. The double-faced watch, set in one of Vuitton's Tambour cases, is a chronograph with a chiming mechanism, powered by a tourbillon movement Akrivia developed from scratch.

Rexhepi tells *Robb Report* that while he was initially hesitant to team up with such a behemoth, he decided to do the project because he likes Jean Arnault, director of watches at Louis Vuitton, on a personal level. He's also a supporter of the LVMH Watch Prize, so he felt it was a good opportunity. "I like to surprise, so I said, 'Why not?' "

Even more surprising, perhaps, is that the extraordinary timepiece marks the first time the 170-year-old *maison* has ever combined its logo with another brand's—an "L" is subtly placed behind the "V" in the Akrivia logo. Serious watchmaking, history-making details, and two unusual but big-name bedfellows deliver a powerhouse combination. *$505,000*



CHRONOGRAPH

PARMIGIANI FLEURIER

Toric Chronograph Rattrapante

UNDER THE REFINED eye of CEO Guido Terreni, Parmigiani has been undergoing a renaissance. But while its fresh direction is creating noise, its new look is all about understated elegance. The Toric collection, introduced in April, embodies this ethos.

The 42.5 mm Toric Chronograph Rattrapante with a light-gray pin-buckle alligator strap is a highlight of the new line: Its case, fluted bezel, and sand-colored, textured dial are all made from rose gold. The real party, however, is on the back. The solid-gold PF361 integrated split-seconds chronograph movement boasts precision of 0.10 of a second and 65 hours of power reserve. Solid-gold mechanisms are rare not only because of their expense, but also due to the sheer difficulty of working with such a soft material. Factor in the challenge of producing a complicated movement, and you have yourself a very good-looking piece of high horology—and a technically impressive one, to boot. It's a fitting proposition for Parmigiani's golden era. *$145,200*

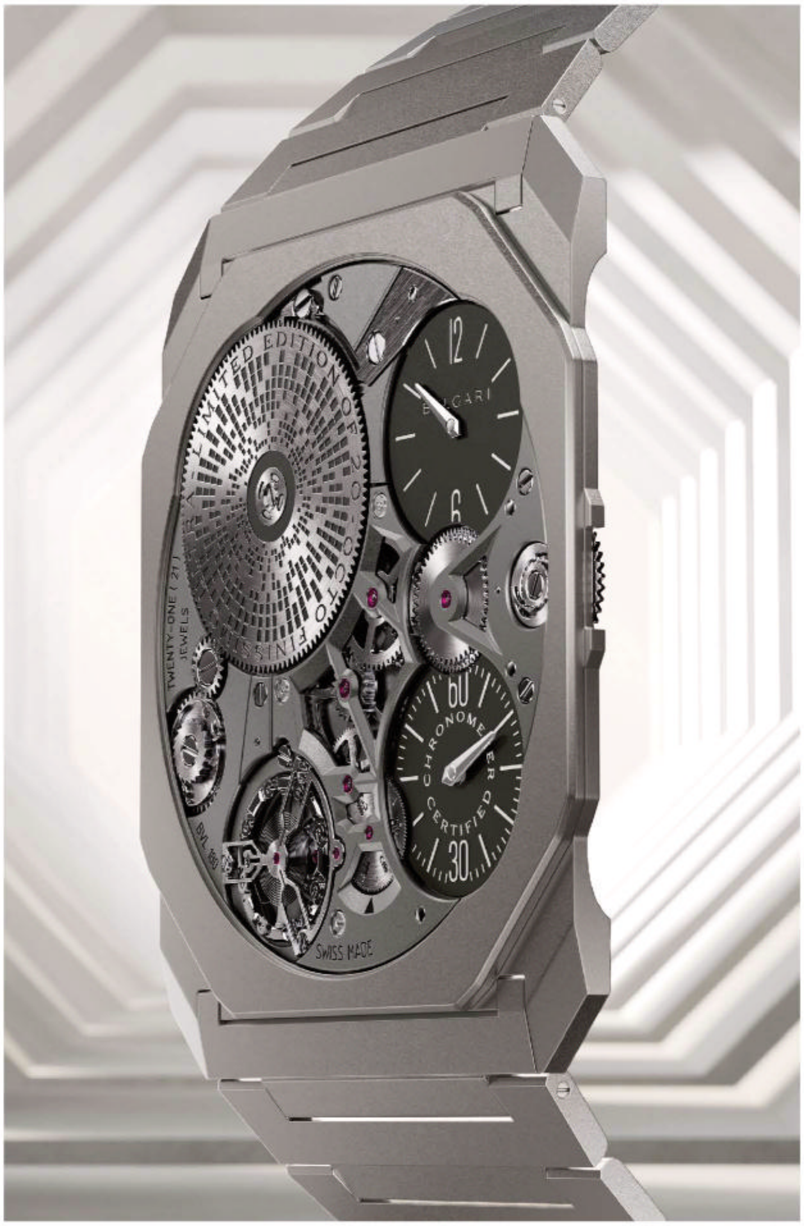
ULTRATHIN

BULGARI

Octo Finissimo Ultra COSC

BULGARI'S OCTO FINISSIMO timepieces continue to get so impossibly slim, it's a wonder there's anything inside them at all. The Italian house just set its ninth world record with the Octo Finissimo Ultra COSC. With a titanium case measuring just 1.70 mm thick, it feels like second skin. It beats out the company's previous world record of the slimmest mechanical watch at 1.80 mm and Richard Mille's at 1.75 mm.

Packed into a space about as thick as a credit card is a carbide main plate, hour and minute regulator display counters, a second wheel, winding and time-setting wheels, and a ratchet engraved with a geometric design. How was it achieved? To shave off 0.10 mm, engineers meticulously thinned the sapphire crystal. If these watchmakers try to go any smaller, this watch might just disappear—but don't think they won't set a 10th world record before they're done. *$529,000*



PATEK PHILIPPE
GENEVE
SWISS

PATEK PHILIPPE: JEAN-DANIEL MEYER

BRACELET

PATEK PHILIPPE

Ellipse Ref. 5738 1R

HANDCRAFTED FROM 363 individual elements, the gold bracelet on the new Patek Philippe Ellipse is not only a feat of craftsmanship but also a first for this model in the modern era. Making a woven bracelet of this caliber is a far more challenging exercise than it appears. Jewelry obsessives will know that even the simplest-looking chains can be extraordinarily difficult to produce. As a result, very few of the Ref. 5738 1R—which is equipped with an ebony-black sunburst dial—will be made. (The brand won't comment on availability, but rumor has it only two of these models are coming to the U.S.) Furthermore, the company says the Ellipse is becoming increasingly sought-after by younger collectors, so competition for this piece may be just as high as the climb for a new Nautilus. *$60,100*

SAPPHIRE CRYSTAL

CHANEL

J12 X-Ray

THANKS TO 2023'S Barbie movie, pink has been everywhere—and Chanel, which has used the color across its catalog for decades, is no exception. The 38 mm J12 X-Ray is crafted from a pink variant of notoriously hard-to-machine sapphire crystal. An uncolored version, released in 2020, was named *Robb Report*'s Unisex Timepiece of the Year. At the time, a handful of watchmakers could create cases and a few parts from the material, but making an entire bracelet from it was a groundbreaking achievement.

Tinting crystal in this rosy hue is also not as simple as it sounds. The challenge, Chanel's president of watches and fine jewelry Frédéric Grangié says, is developing a consistency in the color of the sapphire crystal used to create the limited edition of 12. "It's something we are very proud of because we are both a manufacture for ourselves, but we are also a supplier to many, many other houses," explains Grangié. "And that's always been very Chanel. It's the same thing with couture; we have many métiers d'art, more than 35 at this point, and they work for all of the great names, some of which are fierce competitors." Still, no other house has debuted a full crystal bracelet, let alone one in pink. *Price upon request*

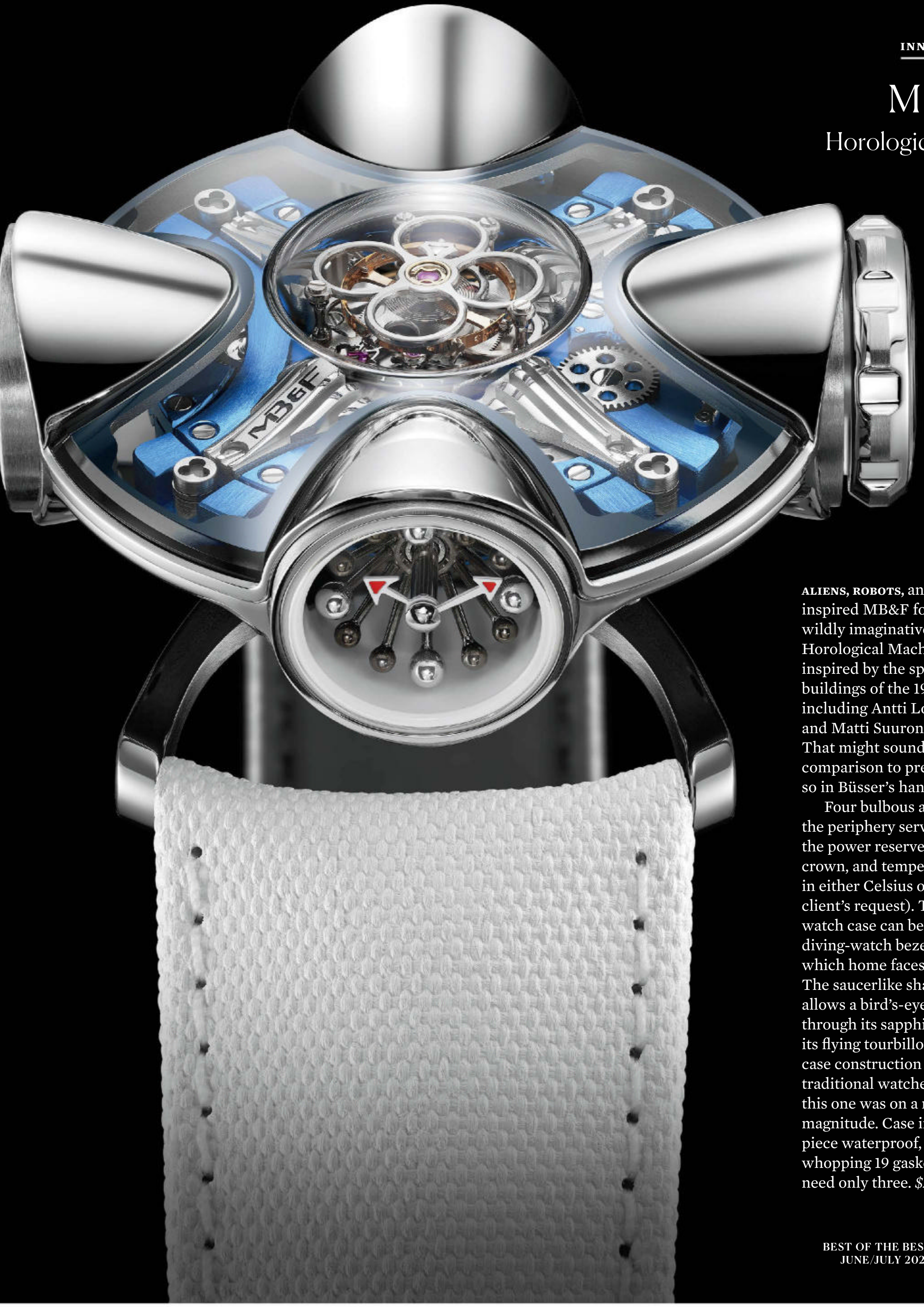
REVIVAL

PIAGET

Polo 79

WHEN THE PIAGET Polo 79 debuted in February, the energy surrounding the release could have rivaled any disco. The internet went into a frenzy over the ultracool, solid-gold reimagination of the late-1970s-era reference, and with good reason. Its retro appeal collided with the emerging trend toward vintage dress watches. And in niche collecting circles, pre-owned examples of the model had already been gaining attention.

But unlike its predecessor—which was mostly produced as a quartz timepiece—the 21st-century version is equipped with a mechanical movement: the 1200P1 in-house automatic caliber. In the '70s, quartz was regarded as the biggest technological development in watchmaking for centuries. At the time, few could have thought that just a few decades later, serious collectors would look down on it. Everything comes full circle. *$73,000*



LAURENT XAVIER MOULIN

INNOVATION

MB&F

Horological Machine 11

ALIENS, ROBOTS, and bulldogs have inspired MB&F founder Max Büsser's wildly imaginative creations. His Horological Machine 11, however, is inspired by the spherical, space-age buildings of the 1950s, '60s, and '70s, including Antti Lovag's Palais Bulles and Matti Suuronen's Futuro House. That might sound rather vanilla in comparison to previous motifs, but not so in Büsser's hands.

Four bulbous apertures around the periphery serve as "homes" for the power reserve, time, time-setting crown, and temperature (which comes in either Celsius or Fahrenheit, per the client's request). The entirety of the watch case can be rotated (similar to a diving-watch bezel) so you can adjust which home faces you on the wrist. The saucerlike shape of the centerpiece allows a bird's-eye view of the movement through its sapphire crystal, showing off its flying tourbillon in the middle. New case construction for seemingly simple traditional watches is a challenge, but this one was on a much higher order of magnitude. Case in point: To make the piece waterproof, MB&F had to use a whopping 19 gaskets. Most dive watches need only three. *$230,000*

The Arturo Fuente Tradition Extends from *Crafting the Finest Cigars to Giving Back*

2011
CIGAR FAMILY CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

The Arturo Fuente Cigar Company—a frequent winner of Robb Report's "Best of the Best" award—is world renowned for crafting the finest premium cigars. Another part of the brand's quest for excellence, however, is its commitment to charitable and humanitarian efforts. In 2001 the Fuente and Newman families, longtime business partners in the cigar industry, established the Cigar Family Charitable Foundation (CFCF), formalizing their dream of improving people's lives in the mountainous Bonao region of the Dominican Republic.

Encompassing five rural communities, the area has suffered from extreme poverty, an inadequate educational system, and poor water quality, which greatly affects the population's health. Most families living here also lack the means of transportation to reach sustainable employment in the area.

What began as a plan to add a wing onto an existing school has grown into the 23-acre Cigar Family Complex, which includes a primary and secondary school, a health center, an organic farming program, plus a sports and recreational facility. Today, thanks to the CFCF, the school has graduated 406 students from high school, turning dreams into reality for these young people. These children didn't know how to read or write, and today they are fluent in up to three languages and are prepared for college and able to compete in the real world. In 2020 the school became a polytechnical school, teaching students trades like nursing and computer science, and graduating 115 students from those programs.

Because 100 percent of the CFCF's administrative overhead costs are underwritten by the founding families, every dollar contributed to the foundation directly assists those in need. Through the Cigar Family Complex, children and families are being provided with the education, resources, and tools they need to help empower themselves to create opportunities for their future.

The tradition of charitable endeavors has been continued by younger members of the Fuente family in other ways as well. On May 6, Fuente employees around the world participated in the third annual Global Impact Day. This celebration of the Fuente Family's commitment to giving back to the community and to making the world a more sustainable and loving environment was created in 2021 by Liana Fuente, a fourth generation member of the family. Once a year employees and associates of the company volunteer in their local communities, which extend from the United States to the Dominican Republic, Nicaragua, and Europe. In 2024 the occasion had special significance, as it honored both the 70th birthday of Carlito Fuente, chairman and visionary of the company, and the birthdate of his father, Carlos Sr., who is missed by all.

This year the focus for employees at Arturo Fuente's home base in Ybor City, Florida, was the Boys & Girls Club of Tampa Bay, an organization that the Fuente family has long supported through the Fuente Family Foundation, founded by Carlos Fuente Sr. in 2008. The club's programs are designed to empower youth to excel in school, become good citizens, and lead healthy, productive lives. The club also provides care for young people after school and during the summer; 74 percent of these youth live at or below the federal poverty level. Other programs supported by the family's foundation include the Humane Society of Tampa Bay and the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Robb Report
BEST OF THE BEST

PAST BEST OF THE BEST HONORS: 2023, 2022, 2020, 2014, 2011, 2010, 2007, 2006, 2005, 2003, 2001, 2000, 1999, 1998

To continue the Fuente story, please visit **arturofuente.com** or find the company on social media.

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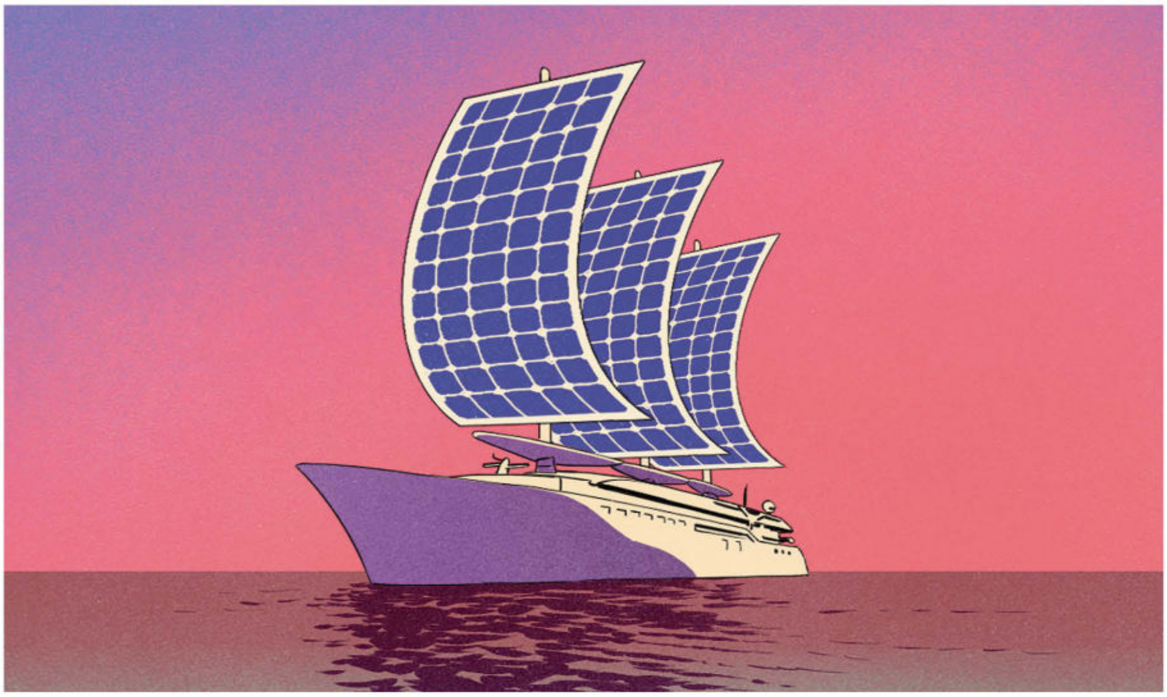
WATER

By Michael Verdon and Julia Zaltzman



THE BIG IDEA

SAILING TOWARD SUSTAINABILITY

FOR A GROWING number of younger sailors, sustainability isn't just a buzzword but the chief driver behind their new builds. Designers and shipyards understand that their vessels must now be the bleeding edge of green technology.

"The wonderful thing about sailing is that you can move a 50-ton vessel in style across the Atlantic without using fossil fuel," says Anders Berg of Dixon Yacht Design, highlighting sailing's wind-harnessing advantage over powerboats. A younger, more tech-savvy clientele has emerged, with "different expectations that are catalyzing new technologies."

"Our demographics changed tremendously after we started building hybrid boats," notes Seth Hynes, president of HH Catamarans, a producer of luxury sailing cats from 44 to 88 feet. "We're now looking at mostly younger buyers—families taking sabbaticals or first-time owners living off the grid."

Hybrid propulsion has significantly lowered emissions compared to conventional diesel power, while solar panels designed into the exterior and lithium-ion batteries recharged by the spinning of the props are becoming integral to the latest generation of bespoke sailing yachts. Green technology is also trickling, albeit more slowly, into production sailboats.

In a reverse trend, designer Bill Tripp has seen motoryacht owners gravitate toward sailing vessels. "About a third of new clients at Y Yachts owned powerboats," he explains, adding that the tech transfer represents a "seismic shift" during his 47 years as a naval architect: "There are great opportunities now for owners who approach this reflectively."

One of Tripp's clients is building a 70-foot "pure-electric" world-cruising sailboat with zero fossil-fuel components. But that remains rare. "Sailing's still waiting for its Tesla moment, when batteries are light and powerful enough to make a boat independent," he adds.

Nobody believes the demand for increased sustainability will fade. "It's accelerating," says Berg, citing a recent clean-sheet project he designed around emerging technology rather than trying to pigeonhole alternative-propulsion components into a traditional hull.

"This new generation of owners want things nobody asked for five years ago," adds Tripp. "They want, and will eventually get, perpetual-motion machines."

ILLUSTRATION BY Emmanuel Polanco

KLAUS JORDAN

GIGAYACHT

KISMET

THE LATEST AND largest *Kismet* is the third yacht of the same name for Jacksonville Jaguars owner Shahid Khan. At 400 feet, it's 88 feet longer than its predecessor, though it shares flash features such as a basketball court on the helipad, video walls, wild chandeliers, and a silver jaguar inlaid into the bowsprit. The interior by Reymond Langton is tastefully flamboyant. The full-beam, two-level owner's apartment is accented in gold, tempered by the fireplace, marbled bathrooms, dressing rooms, and enormous skylight above the bed. Other over-the-top features include a cryotherapy chamber, a Bogányi grand piano on the upper deck, and a "Tron Corridor" with a dance floor that flashes pink and blue. The cinema may claim the Khan prize for coolest feature: Under the 150-inch television is a Nemo Lounge, a window to whatever is swimming outside.

SUPERYACHT

MALIA

STRETCHING 255 FEET, Golden Yachts' *Malia* was the largest yacht launched in Greece last year. Stefano Vafiadis's exterior is attractive, if conventional, with its axe bow and trapezoidal windows, but the interior by Massari Design really shines. The more than 50 finishes throughout the interior include semiprecious stones with emerald and sapphire hues, liquid metals, and 16 types of marble. With so many materials, it would be easy to wander into kitsch, but the design remains restrained and contemporary. Highlights include textured-wood ceilings by Italian artisans, marble steps, and champagne-colored metal-glass chandeliers. The seven generous guest cabins are eclipsed by the full-beam primary suite, with a private office, vanity, and walk-in closet. Outside, a glass-bottom swimming pool filters sunlight into the beach club below. The lower deck includes a massage room, sauna, and hammam. Continuing the wellness theme, the gym is located on the sundeck.

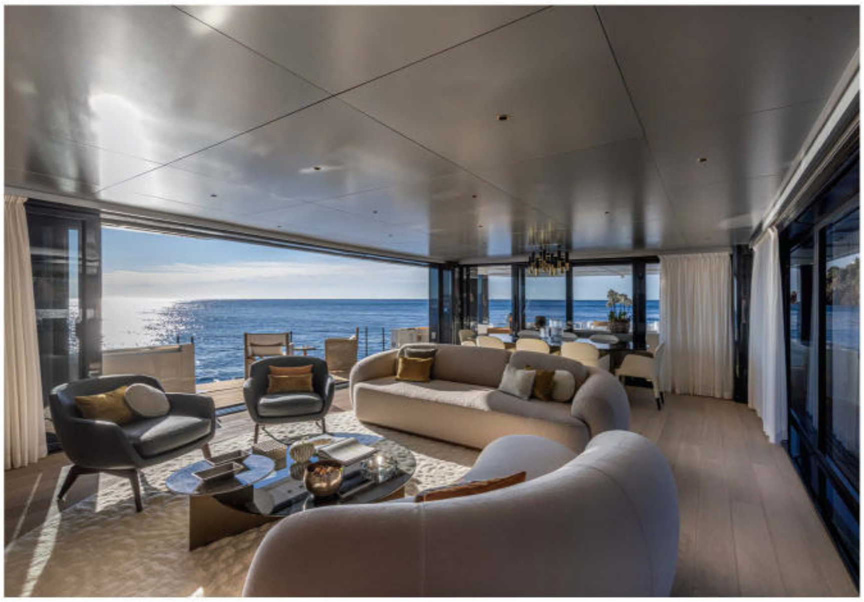
MALIA INTERIOR: GUILLAUME PLISSON

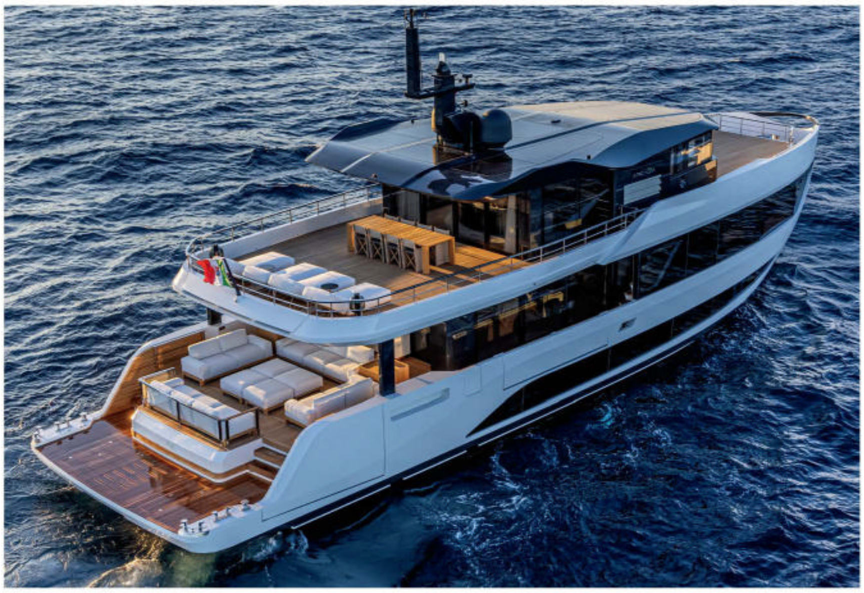
MOTORYACHT

ARCADIA

A96

IN THIS PARTICULARLY competitive category, an unusually generous 4,300 square feet of usable space—30 percent more than other yachts in its class—lifted the A96 into the winner's circle. That roominess is enhanced by a 24-foot beam that stretches six feet wider when the rear platforms are folded out. The A96 is largely designed around its open exterior: Sliding glass doors on the main deck access the cockpit, which is connected to a rear seating area and swim platform; the outside-in design is repeated on a smaller scale on the next deck. In a green nod, the rooftop solar panels generate 4.5 kW of energy for non-propulsion systems. An optional Hotel Mode system runs the vessel on emissions-free battery power for nine hours. Igor Lobanov's interior incorporates more sustainability, using what he calls eco-compatible materials for a calming fit and finish. Despite its open layout, the A96 was designed for discretion, with separate stairways for owners and crew to promote ease of movement.



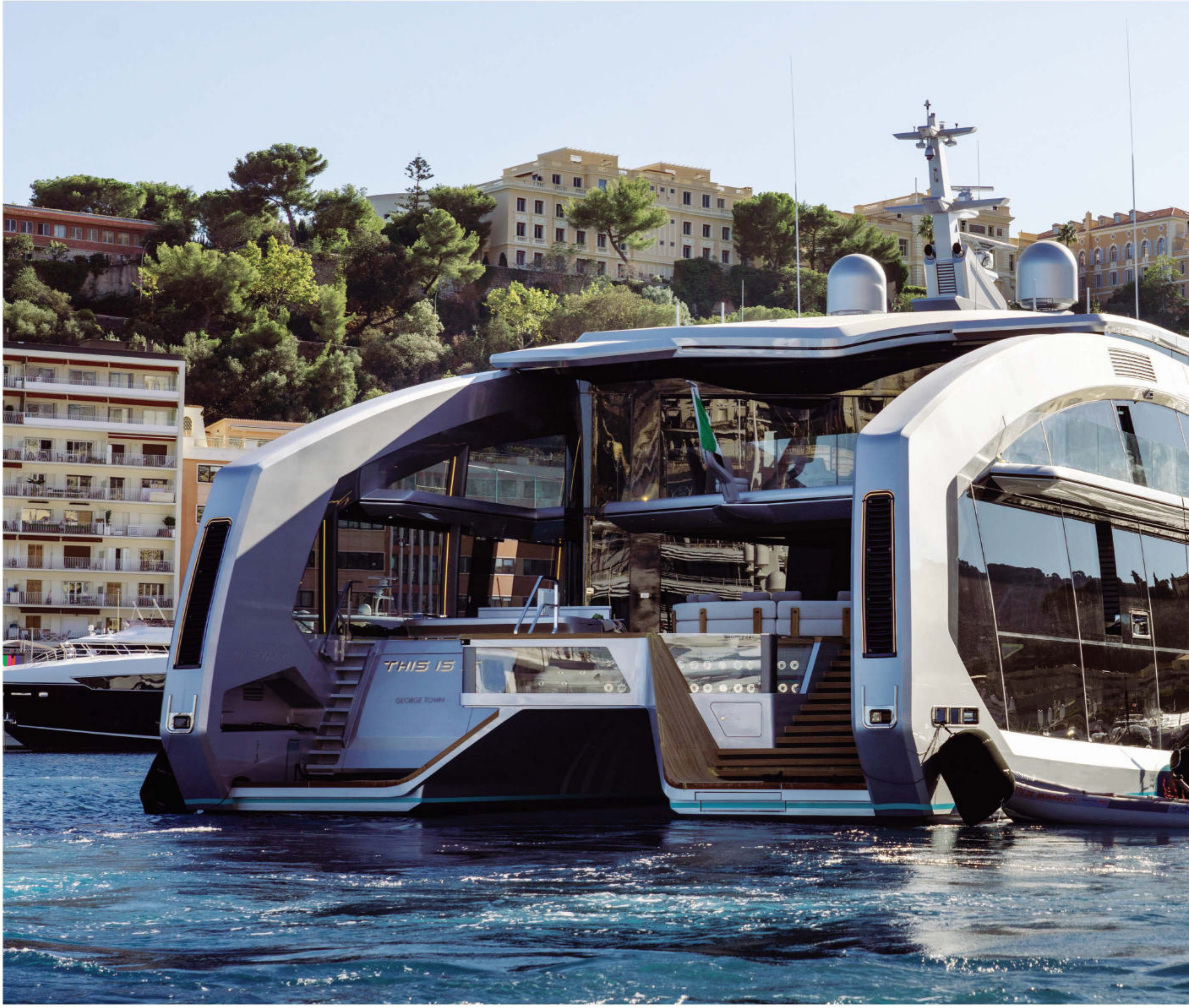


TOM VAN OOSSANEN

MEGAYACHT

ULTRA G

THIS HEESEN, ONE of the fastest yachts in its class, is powered by MTU diesels with a total of 22,000 hp, connected to four water jets, that deliver a top speed of 37 knots. Speed is essential for the angling-obsessed owner to reach cruising grounds 100 miles offshore. But even with a fishing platform and an angler's lounge (with screens showing live underwater feeds), the owner refers to *Ultra G* as a fast superyacht rather than a sportfisherman. That's one reason why we chose this 197-footer—its speed doesn't compromise comfort. The other is the Harrison Eidsgaard interior, which features a full owner's bridge deck with an aft-facing suite, private terrace, and whirlpool. The yacht's media room includes a cinema and games table, and in addition to the requisite sauna and steam room, the wellness area boasts a snow room. A surprising architectural highlight: the central staircase that winds through a glass-topped atrium.



CHARTER YACHT

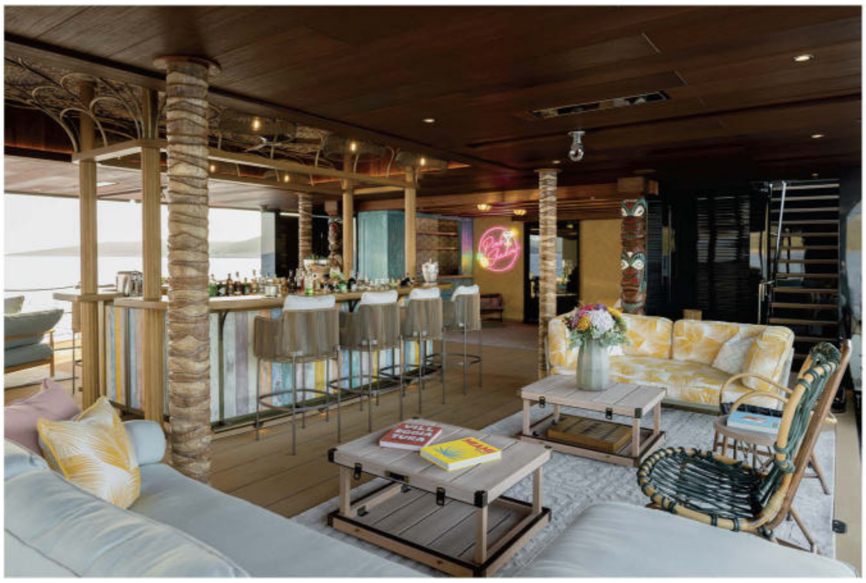
THIS IS IT

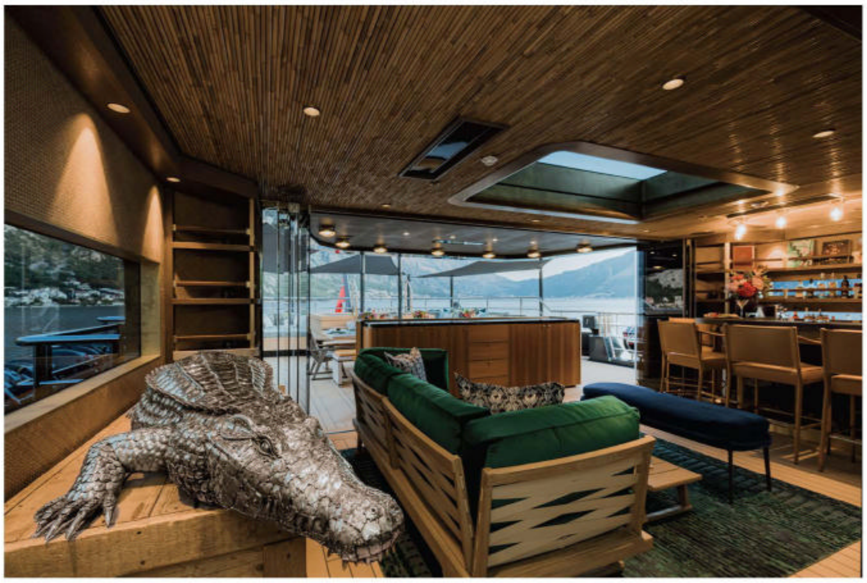
TECNOMAR'S 143-FOOT catamaran attracts instant love or hate. After a tour, we came to love the bold (if sometimes tacky) design that screams "I don't care." The irreverent attitude materializes in the vessel's over-the-top use of glass, with nearly 6,500 square feet of full-height windows and strategically placed skylights—including one 11 feet above the primary bed—across the interior. Even the galley has a polarized-glass window looking into the salon. Other unconventional but appreciated details: The main suite has a private side entrance and an aft-facing balcony for the owner's exclusive use overlooking the 48-foot-wide stern. The curvaceously asymmetrical interior, penned by the Italian Sea Group, claims inspiration from both sea creatures and the automotive world. Leather, Alcantara, oak, and gray-marble inserts complement silk wall panels and ceilings featuring bronze, platinum, and gold finishes. *This Is It* refuses to be ignored, even at night, when neon-blue lights trace the superstructure's arch while white bulbs accentuate every line.

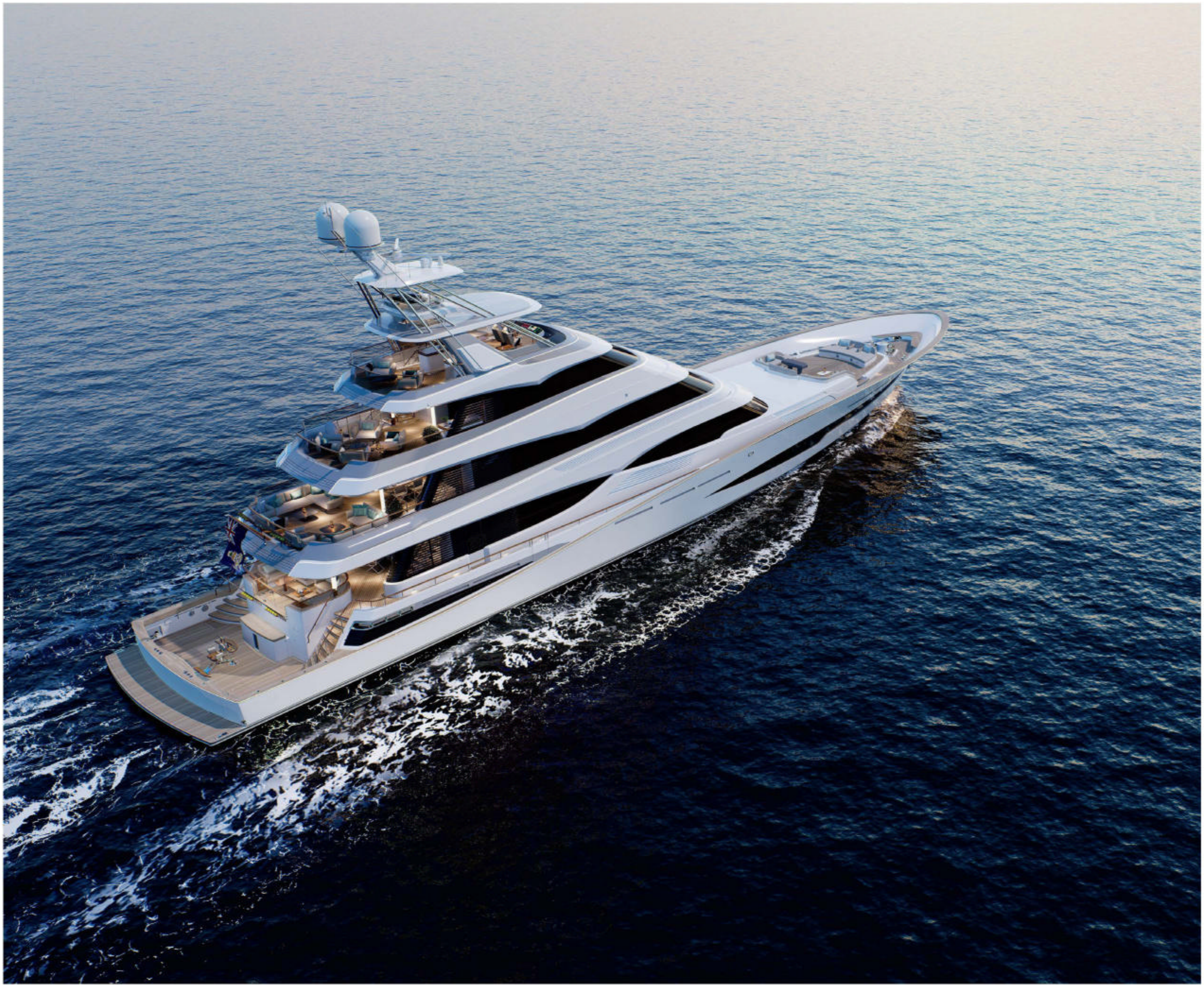
INTERIOR

PINK SHADOW

DESIGN UNLIMITED'S BOLD interior for Damen's 191-foot *Pink Shadow* was inspired by Werner Herzog's film *Fitzcarraldo*. Though the interior can seem, at first glance, as chaotic as the 1980s movie set in the Amazon, it holds together in an unusual and extravagant way, partly thanks to the fact that it's an explorer yacht. The main-salon lounge includes purple velvet sofas and a custom rug depicting *Fitzcarraldo's* steamboat sailing down the Amazon. Tan leathers and pops of pink neon sit beside a giant silver crocodile sculpture and jungle murals on the walls. The upper-deck cigar bar, or Habana Lounge, includes a bespoke humidor, while the bridge enjoys wallpaper embroidered with tropical birds as well as a tabletop with crocodile teeth and scales cast in resin. The enormous beach club features bamboo walls, palm-tree pillars, and a weathered, pastel-colored wooden bar. To complete the themed treatment, the full-beam owner's cabin, with a lounge and "siesta room," is covered in floral patterns.







SPORTFISHERMAN

SPECIAL ONE

ROYAL HUISMAN'S 171-FOOT *Special One* is the largest and most heavily customized sportfisherman ever. Studio Vripack did its best to define the vessel as a serious offshore battlewagon, with a dramatically long forefoot, high bulwarks, six decks, and signature tuna tower on top. In profile, it looks like a conventional sportfisherman on steroids. In the stern is an oversize angler's cockpit, complete with the requisite fighting chair. Four tiered aft decks give spectators a view of the action, while the tuna tower is designed for spotting pelagics many miles away. Despite the interior luxuries, this vessel is no pretender: It's equipped with live-bait wells, rod holders, fish freezers, tuna tubes, and a bait-and-tackle room. On the foredeck, an outdoor cinema screen and studio-quality speakers provide a post-catch respite from fishing. The behemoth will be delivered to its owner in June.

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ITALIAN YACHTS

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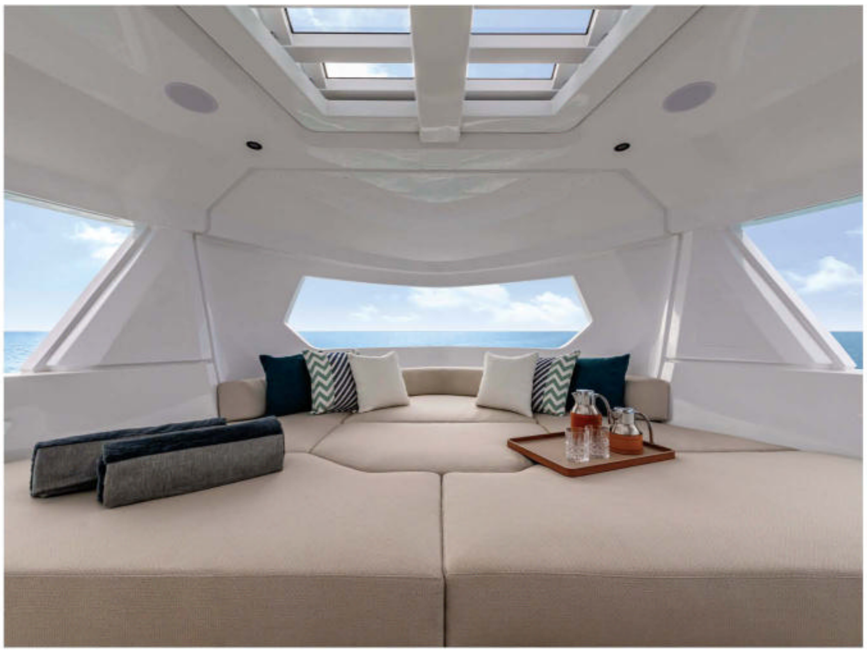
ELECTRIC BOAT

TYDE ICON

THE 44-FOOT Tyde Icon isn't the first electric foiler on the water—Candela and Navier both introduced earlier models, but they lacked the crowd-pleasing interior of the Icon, a joint project between German start-up Tyde and BMW. Though it could work as an owner-driven vessel, the Icon is designed as a tender, with an interior featuring lounge seating, a rear helm with an advanced aerospace look, and full-height windows for exceptional views. The BMW-developed batteries boast a capacity of 240 kWh, delivering a 50-nautical-mile range at 24 knots, with a top end of 30 knots. Foil benefits include efficiency increases of up to 80 percent compared to a conventional monohull, plus a much softer ride above the water for owners and guests. The 120-square-foot rear platform offers access to the water at anchor and doubles as a sizable exterior deck when the boat is running.



DETAIL

FERRETTI INFYNITO 90

Foredeck

MOST BUILDERS rubber-stamp bows as open seating areas, but the All-Season Terrace on Ferretti's new Infynito 90 explorer is more astute, transforming the first quarter of the main deck into a nook that's open on three sides but protected by an overhead roof with opening slats. This offers the best views on the boat, including directly over the bow. The lounge seating, optional bar with stools, and Jacuzzi let owners and guests enjoy prolonged time up front even while underway, rather than having to seek refuge from the sun. Competitors will no doubt appropriate this design in other guises, but Ferretti got it right from the outset.

FERRETTI: ALBERTO COCCHI

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SAILING YACHT

NILAYA

THE OWNER OF 154-foot *Nilaya* is a sailor who owned a previous yacht with the same name, but some 39 feet shorter. The prime directive this time around: comparable performance but without the noise of the other boat's carbon-fiber hull. "He wanted to explore the world, but in a lightweight yacht that wins regattas," says designer Mario Pedol of Nauta. The new *Nilaya* was builder Royal Huisman's first Featherlight racing yacht in lightweight aluminum: Its engineers used a computer-modeling tool based on technology from the European Space Agency for designing the structure, saving weight and abating noise wherever possible. The build was a gamble, but the result is a fast, stylish superyacht for racing and cruising. In the latter mode, three deck areas and a beach club accommodate gatherings, while below-decks are dining and social areas, guest staterooms, and the full-beam main suite. The owner has already crossed the Atlantic twice aboard *Nilaya* and also claimed a win in the St. Barths Bucket, fulfilling both missions.

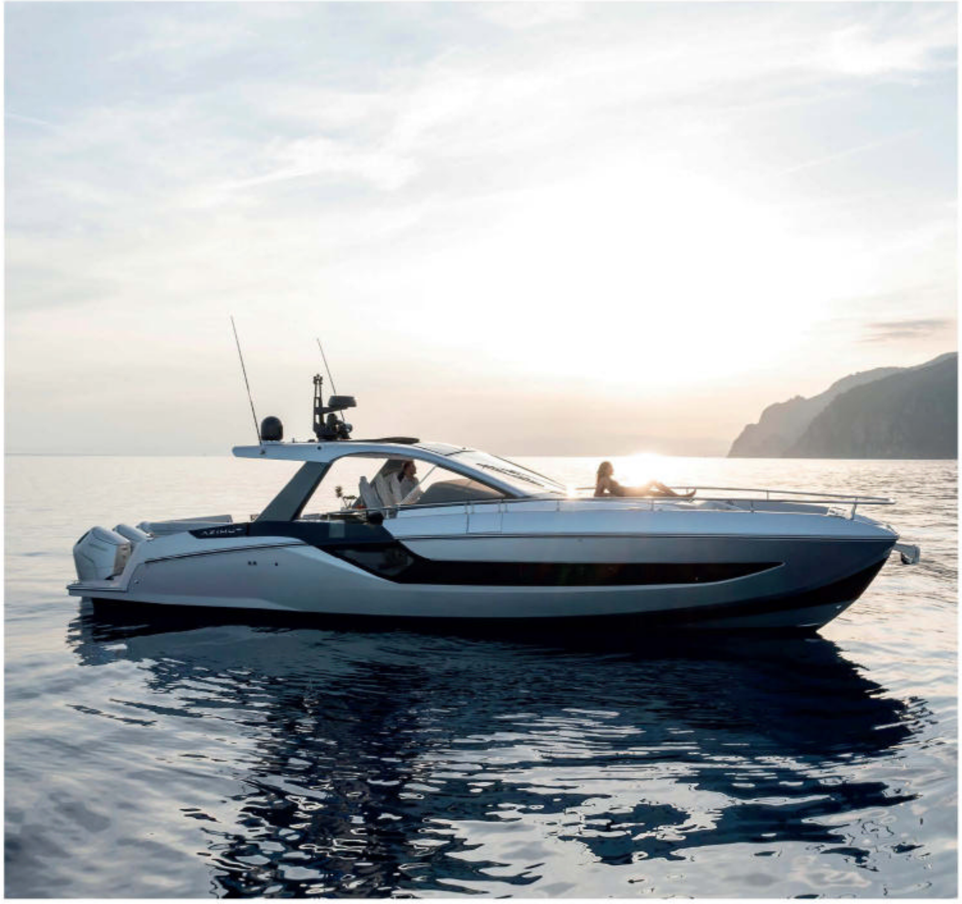
NILAYA: TOM VAN OOSSANEN

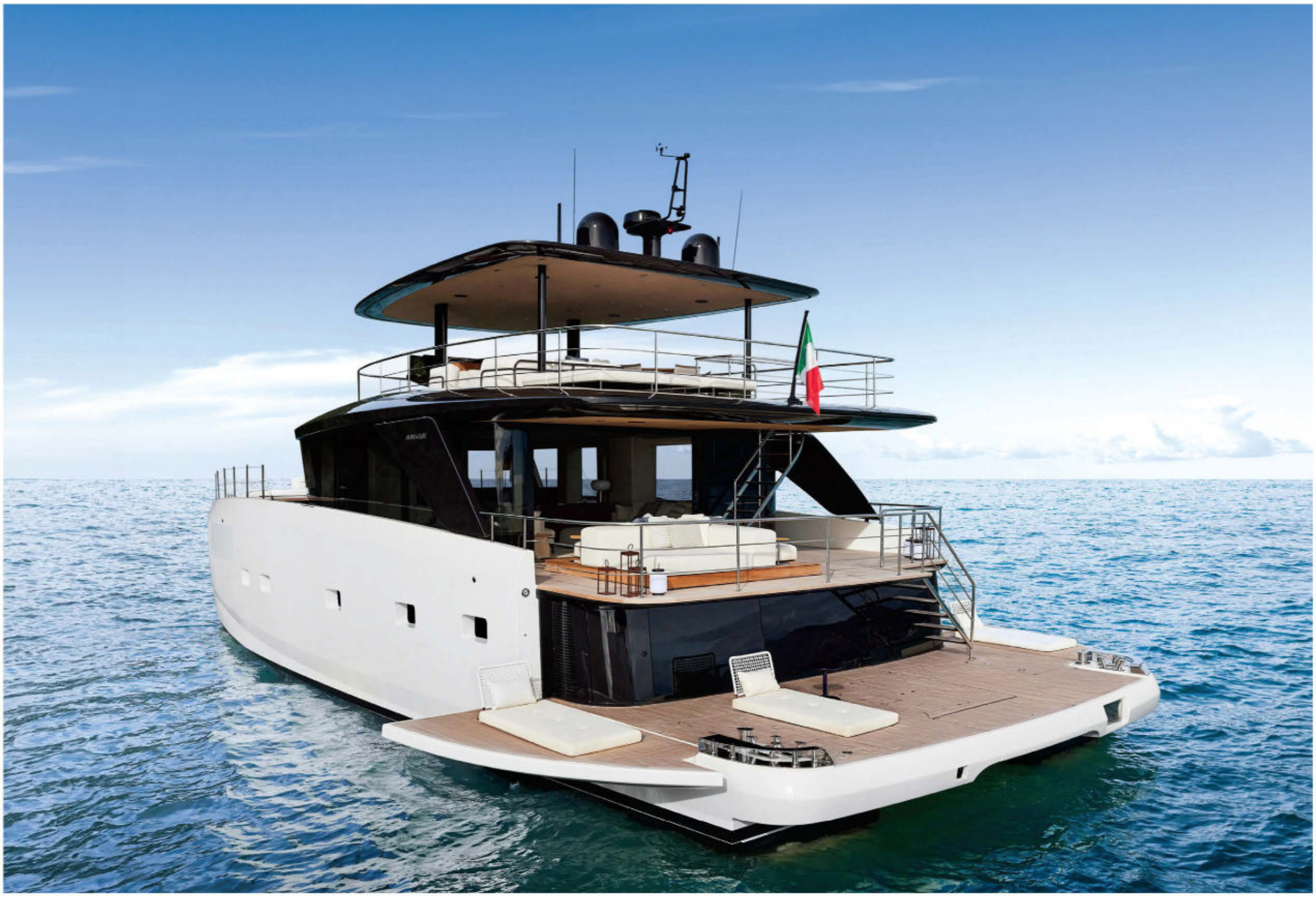
DAYBOAT

AZIMUT

Verve 48 Outboard

PACKING 1,800 HP with three 600 hp Mercury V-12 outboards, the Verve 48 has an invigorating top end of 57 mph. That speed, along with its open exterior and stepped hull, predestine the 48 for hot, sunny waters (think South Florida). Features such as the foldout rear deck that lifts to become an alfresco dining area and the large asymmetrical social area in the bow cement the Verve 48's status as a dayboat. Its carbon-fiber construction, smart helm, and full exterior galley are major distinguishers among its competitors. The two-stateroom cabin also has a head, separate shower, and dinette for cruising potential, but at heart the Verve is a fast, fun, high-end entertainment platform for family and friends.





INNOVATION

BLUEGAME

BGM75

BLUEGAME'S DECISION TO create a power cat with a narrower beam had multiple knock-on effects. Aesthetically, the BGM75 has a svelte profile, unlike the typical boxy look of most in the category. There's also excellent space for the main salon, measuring 27 feet across, while the designers extended the guest staterooms into the boat's midsection rather than squeezing them into the multihulls. The full-beam main suite is perhaps the best argument for the approach, incorporating a sizable bedroom and large ensuite across the front of the boat. The twin hulls also multiply the BGM75's efficiency, with the Italian builder claiming it burns 30 percent less fuel than a 90-foot monohull with a similar volume. A minimalist helm, spacious flybridge, and full-beam tender garage put it in a category of one. The subtle luxury of the interior only increases the distance between this breakthrough design and other yachts its size. Expect copycats.

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The Ritz-Carlton, Turks & Caicos

Known for its powdery white sand and clear turquoise water, The Ritz-Carlton, Turks & Caicos sits midst the renowned Grace Bay Beach. Indulge in culinary global-inspired flavors, spa rituals, water adventures on a 60 ft catamaran, an open-air lobby & bar, and a dazzling casino that makes your stay unforgettable.

ritzcarlton.com/turksandcaicos

The Ritz-Carlton, Grand Cayman

Indulge in triple Five-Star luxury at this iconic resort, the first and only hotel in the Caribbean to earn Five Stars for its hotel, spa and restaurant, Blue by Eric Ripert in Forbes Travel Guide, truly enlivens the senses with its elegant suites, reimagined culinary experiences, and the unmatched beauty of Seven Mile Beach.

ritzcarlton.com/grandcayman

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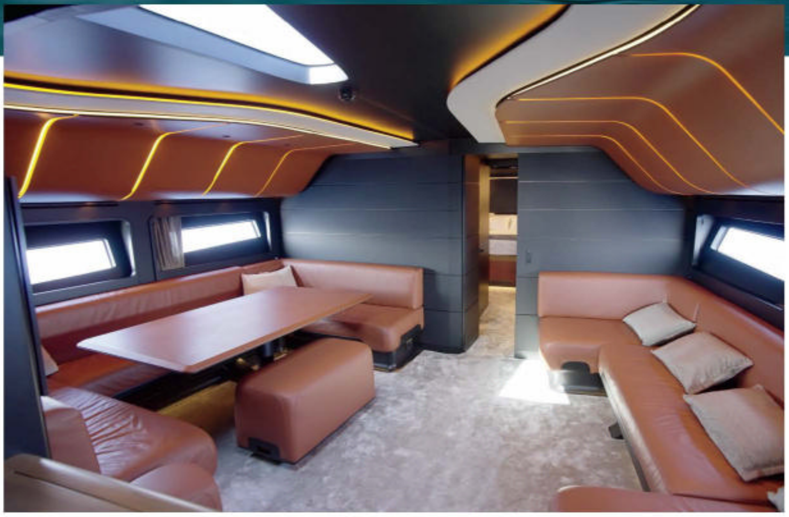
Travel & Leisure Top 500 World's Favorite Hotels - The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba



WEEKENDER

BOLIDE 80

IN THIS CURRENT era of sustainability, the Bolide 80 is almost defiantly petrolicious, a water rocket powered by triple 2,000 hp MAN engines that hits 86 mph. But speed is just one facet of a vessel that is equal parts art and engineering, all wrapped in an 81-foot, seven-inch carbon-fiber hull. Victory Marine's "Hyper Muscle Yacht" looks fast even sitting still, the lean profile noteworthy thanks to its unusually long forefoot and curved, swept-back stern with side wind scoops. The cockpit is stylishly functional, and the helm has the requisite space-age look with large displays. And the interior is different from anything else on the water: The burnt-sienna leather walls, with light strips set into the ceiling, are combined with notable features such as a leather Pullman-style dresser and carbon-fiber arches. The Bolide isn't an everyman vessel, but its build quality, design, and performance make it one of the most interesting we've seen in years.

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BEACH CLUB

LEONA

THE RED BULLET, as Bilgin's 263-foot *Leona* was nicknamed by one of its designers, has an interior dripping in exotic custom materials. But H2 Yacht Design saved the most outrageous features for the inimitable beach club—once you see it, you can't forget it. The 28-foot, blue-tiled swimming pool is surrounded by Aphrodite-style statues along with marble fountains and backlit wall panels. Natural light floods through three shell doors when open, creating a faux-Grecian sea terrace. When closed, a starry night sky comes into view, courtesy of the glittering fiber-optic ceiling. Of course, any beach club of this caliber would have to include a *shisha* smoking lounge, a wellness area with gold-colored furniture, and a gym with a mirrored, leather-trimmed ceiling. Treatment rooms and a sauna are also part of the lower-deck complex, while a post-swim movie can be enjoyed in the adjacent cinema lounge covered, naturally, in ruby-red velvet.

COMEBACK

H3

RETURNING TO OCEANCO for a rebirth 22 years after its delivery, the 345-foot *H3* received a 33-foot hull extension—26 feet at the stern and seven feet to the forward deck line—plus a remodeled superstructure and an entirely reimagined interior. The yacht was originally launched in 2000 as *Al Mirqab* and later renamed *Indian Empress* before the current owner enlisted U.K. firm Reymond Langton to transform the formerly boxy boat into a sleek and modern gigayacht. The extra length now holds a large pool aft, with a waterfall and a bottom that raises to become a dance floor. *H3* also has more accommodations for the 32 crew, and a full-beam VIP suite that doubles as a second primary. The interior includes a 33-foot-long video corridor and an LED "tech window," both of which are softened by custom leather wall panels, bronze and nickel detailing, and backlit infinity mirrors. Perhaps the most impressive stat? Sixty percent emissions reduction following the refit.

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TRAVEL

By Mark Ellwood, Paul Croughton, Josh Condon, Chris Cameron, Mary Holland, Sarah Khan, and Jen Murphy

THE BIG IDEA

ALONE IN A CROWD

DON'T BOTHER BUYING A HOTEL. There's no need now, as it has never been easier to enjoy the feeling of your own private resort (if temporarily). Call it an owner's lodge, a royal villa, or the principal's home: The must-have of the moment is a mansion-size, hotel-run lodging that has access to all of the amenities but keeps you far away from fellow guests.

This trend is influenced by a permanent shift in travel patterns. According to Black Tomato's Sunil Metcalfe, bookings for eight people or more increased by 35 percent in 2022 compared to 2019. Such group travel now makes up almost a third of the company's bookings. "The private-villa and private-staff trend that was massive during Covid is on the wane, but what's stayed is a desire for private residences within desirable hotels," he says. Adventure specialist Gray & Co. has seen a similar shift: In 2023, multigenerational travel had doubled.

Properties from urban centers to beach resorts are adding offshoots primed for such buyouts: Oslo's Sommerro offers the smartly named 11-room Villa Inkognito. At Caiman, the resort-cum–wildlife preserve in Brazil's wetland Pantanal region, the private villa Baiazinha sleeps 12. And on Lizard Island, in Australia's Great Barrier Reef, the deck of the Lizard House overlooks a beach David Attenborough is said to have called one of his favorite places in the world.

Need more than just a single structure? Not to worry. Fiji's Kokomo Private Island has five residences with three or more bedrooms, each perched on a hilltop. At Long Bay Villas on Anguilla, you can book a trio of homes separately or together. One&Only's new Greek property Kéa Island, meanwhile, looks more like a village of luxury homes than a hotel. And in Africa, the luxury-safari realm's move toward micro camps, such as Botswana's North Island Okavango or Tarkuni Homestead (on South Africa's Tswalu game reserve), is also driven by this trend.

On St. Barts, Eden Rock takes this a step further, offering a catalog of 200 privately owned homes dotted around the island. The program is so successful it has spawned both clones (local rival Hotel Le Toiny has its own portfolio of over a dozen) and expansion. Eden Rock operator Oetker is now offering a similar service along the Côte d'Azur. It's a reminder of that well-worn piece of financial advice: Why buy when you can rent?

ILLUSTRATION BY Emmanuel Polanco

SAFARI CAMP

LOAPI

Tswalu Kalahari Reserve, South Africa

YOU WOULDN'T EXPECT to stumble upon six cutting-edge glass, steel, and canvas structures in the middle of the Kalahari Desert. Unless perhaps you're within Tswalu, South Africa's largest private game reserve. The Oppenheimer family, which owns it, has been restoring these lands since 1999. While conservation and sustainability are top of mind here, so are privacy and high design. Loapi, the aforementioned collection of micro camps, is the third and newest addition to this 282,000-acre reserve. It offers a private guide, a butler, and a chef who can cook everything from tapas to curries to freshly baked bread.

The views from the rooms and outdoor terraces are staggering: Grassland and red soil meet the low mountains that jut upward into a cerulean sky. The interiors are stunning, too, appointed with intricately carved wood-paneled walls, cork ceilings, and coffee-colored rounded bouclé couches that beg for a post-safari nap. *From $2,428 per person*

BEACH RESORT

KONA VILLAGE, A ROSEWOOD RESORT

Hawaii

WHEN NEWS SPREAD that the posh Rosewood brand would resurrect Hawaii's beloved Kona Village resort, which was decimated by a tsunami in 2011, there was both celebration and concern. Could the laid-back vibe guests returned for year after year be re-created? By the time it reopened last July, it had Wi-Fi, plus a striking new spa improbably built into the lava flow and a sea-to-table restaurant with an outstanding selection of white Burgundy (both impressive additions).

But the soul of the place lives on at the restored Shipwreck Bar, a beached schooner-turned–watering hole that belonged to the founders. The vessel, where Jim Morrison once infamously consumed a record 21 mai tais, miraculously survived the storm. (Staff joke that the only thing stronger than the drinks is the boat itself.) Take a seat and listen closely enough, and you can overhear guests reminiscing about stays here as long ago as the '60s. It's proof that even with modern upgrades, the place can still transport you to the Hawaii of another era. *From $1,800*

FAIRMONT HOTELS & RESORTS — *Timeless Luxury Past, Present, and Future*

When the elegant new Fairmont San Francisco opened its doors in 1907, it not only marked a new era for that city, but it also inaugurated a tradition of landmark architecture and luxurious hospitality that would provide the backdrop for historic events and cultural touchstones: the signing of the United Nations Charter in San Francisco; John Lennon and Yoko Ono's "bed-in" in Montreal; a home base for Eloise, the irrepressible literary youngster in New York. Inevitably, Fairmont hotels have become synonymous with the best in their cities, with names that epitomize the places to stay, to dine, to see, and to be seen.

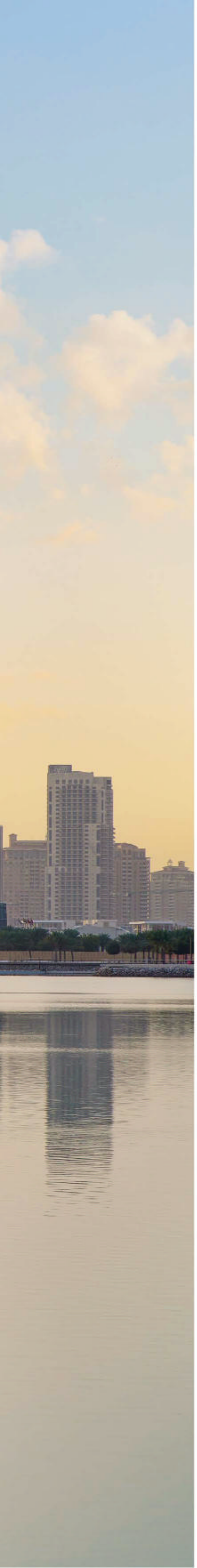
"Fairmont has long played a role in the most special moments in people's lives. From the world-changing, like safely welcoming home the Apollo 11 astronauts from their history-making trek to the moon, to those smaller, more intimate occasions, which are most meaningful to those celebrating, such as a milestone birthday or anniversary—we are there," says Omer Acar, newly appointed CEO for Fairmont Hotels & Resorts.

Today, the brand's portfolio encompasses 90 hotels in 32 countries (with 34 more on the horizon)—including icons like The Plaza in New York, The Savoy in London, Fairmont Le Château Frontenac in Quebec City, and Fairmont Peace Hotel in Shanghai, as well as recent notable arrivals, like Fairmont Doha, which is clearly destined to help define the dynamism of the capital of Qatar.

"It is not every day that you have the opportunity to open a hotel which truly changes the skyline of the city, and yet Fairmont Doha and its sister property, Raffles Doha, do exactly that. The striking architecture dominates the waterfront as a scimitar sword inspired by the country's emblem, and the awe-inspiring experience continues indoors—moving through the Fairmont Doha lobby looking up into the world's largest chandelier, past walls lined with gold mosaic wall tiling and rich wood paneling framing panoramic views of the coastline, into guest rooms which marry locally inspired Qatari design with inventive smart room technology. The stunning design is only surpassed by the exceptional service and personalized experiences for which the Fairmont brand is beloved worldwide," says Acar.

The next year or so promises to be memorable with the openings of a half-dozen new and reimagined Fairmont properties around the globe; in fact, more than a third of the portfolio is being renovated to ensure that each hotel remains an unrivaled example of style and hospitality. Take, for example, the recent completion of transformative multiyear projects at Fairmont Kea Lani on Maui and Fairmont Mayakoba in Mexico. Opening this year is the Fairmont-managed five-star Cape Grace on the Victoria & Albert waterfront in Cape Town, South Africa. Following soon after are Fairmont's first property on the southern coast of Spain—Fairmont La Hacienda,

Fairmont Doha



Costa del Sol, an expansive residential and golf resort; the restoration of the storied Fairmont Breakers Long Beach, the first luxury boutique hotel for the bustling city on the Pacific; and the historic Fairmont Golden Prague, a sophisticated landmark along lively Parizska Boulevard.

“Our hotels are famed for sitting at the heart of some of the most extraordinary cities and unreal natural landscapes the world has to offer,” says Acar. “Within the next few years, we will bring the Fairmont experience into dynamic city centers in Tokyo and Bangkok; new resort developments at the Red Sea and Port Douglas in Australia; British country estates in Cheshire and Luton Hoo; culturally significant locations like Agra and Madinah; and historical hubs such as New Orleans.”

> *“Our hotels are famed for sitting at the heart of some of the most extraordinary cities and unreal natural landscapes the world has to offer.”*

Like its quest for excellence in every aspect of service, design, and luxe appointments, an eye to the future has always been a distinguishing hallmark of Fairmont properties. That extends to the brand’s commitment to sustainability. It was the first global hotel company to launch a comprehensive environmental mandate, anchoring its efforts in each community, and the brand’s work continues today.

“We firmly believe that our community, our guests, our colleagues, and our environment must be better for having touched the Fairmont brand and our hotels. So, acting responsibly is critical to our ethos. Brand-wide programs range from the elimination of single-use plastics in the guest experience to major work in the reduction of carbon emissions, including Fairmont Royal York’s history-making status as our first zero-carbon building to our Bee Sustainable program, building honeybee apiaries and wild pollinator bee hotels around the globe,” says Acar. “I’m also particularly proud of the efforts of our hotels, connecting with their local communities and supporting organizations, which are truly meaningful on a local level.”

Shakespeare famously asked, “What’s in a name?” When the name is Fairmont, the word implies expectations of unparalleled luxury, timeless elegance, unobtrusive and meticulous service, and extraordinary attention to detail—all unquestionably fulfilled.

“Fairmont is undeniably a truly special place. We have some of the world’s most remarkable buildings, lobbies filled with life the moment you walk in, luxury offerings which make a guest feel truly pampered and indulgent,” Acar explains. “But the true secret to the Fairmont experience is our people—they are the heart of the brand and how we are able to continue delivering distinctive and memorable moments for all who visit.”

Visit fairmont.com for more information.

OMER ACAR
Newly appointed CEO for Fairmont Hotels & Resorts.

Fairmont Mayakoba

LUXURY ADVENTURE

SHINTA MANI MUSTANG

Nepal

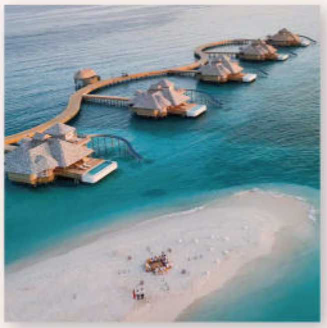
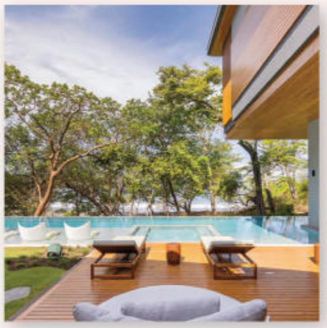
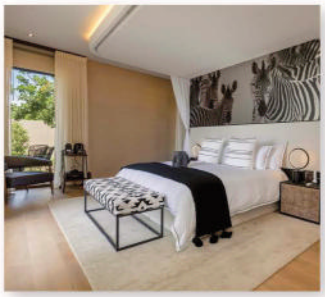
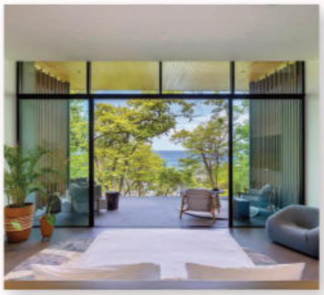
YOU DON'T HAVE to leave the remote grounds of Nepal's Shinta Mani Mustang, the third property in architect Bill Bensley's eponymous hotel collection, to feel immersed in the culture of this ancient mountain kingdom. Guests can join a monk in the on-site puja room for sunrise chants or partake in a healing session with the resident *amchi*, an 11th-generation doctor of traditional Tibetan medicine. The surrounding powder-dusted peaks are perfectly framed in each bedroom's floor-to-ceiling windows, the yak-fur-lined bar serves local apple brandy, and the restaurant's nine-course momo tasting menu schools guests in the region's staple steamed dumplings.

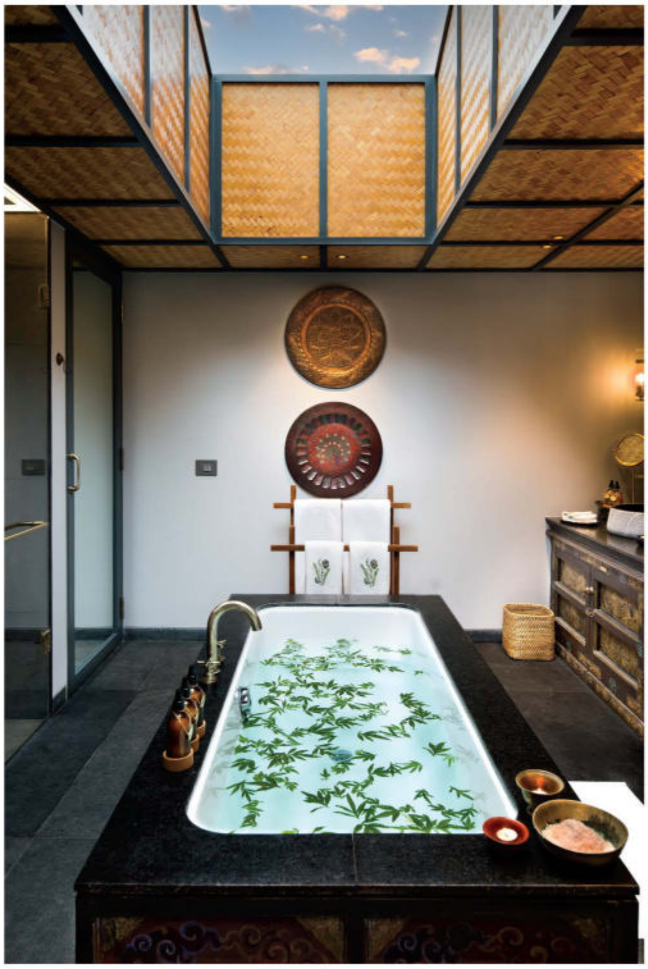
But hotelier Jason Friedman, a partner in the project, intended the 29-suite retreat to be a cushy base camp. Guests can enjoy immersive excursions, such as a trek to a medieval village believed to be the last place in Mustang where the pre-Buddhist religion of Bon is still practiced, or a lunch of Thakali curry cooked in a local home. The real luxury, Friedman says, is getting to explore a region few people have ever seen. *From $1,800*

ELISE HASSEY

HAVING IT ALL

These new properties hit a rare Goldilocks spot: They're just right for groups seeking a whole-property buyout. This cheat sheet will help you pick which one to take over.

	SONEVA SECRET MALDIVES *From $150,000*	**KATEKA** SOUTH AFRICA *From around $28,700*	**VILLA AVELLANA** COSTA RICA *From $22,000*	**VILLA MABROUKA** MOROCCO *Price upon request*
				
IDEAL FOR	Old friends who'd rather crash at sunset than party till dawn	Fitness-obsessed family members who don't live near one another	Longtime friends who've done a summerhouse share and lived to tell the tale	Stylish types bewitched by the 20th century's greatest fashion designers
HAPPY OCCASION	A restorative class reunion—with people you actually want to see	A stimulating vacation for a multigenerational set, elephants included	Bachelor parties, benchmark birthdays, and other blowout celebrations	A well-earned getaway with friends and loved ones
NEED TO KNOW	 This resort is a homecoming for Soneva, which launched here three decades ago. The new 14-villa concept on the country's farthest-flung atoll, Haa Dhaalu, is 75 minutes by seaplane from the capital, Malé. Each villa has its own team of three, including a chef, and many are appointed with brand signatures: slides that take you directly into the ocean, retractable roofs for star-gazing, and slick wooden interiors. Opt for the *Magical Mystery Tour*-like Secret Days, for which staff will design a surprise-filled itinerary.	 The six-villa property, which can accommodate 16 guests, sits within the 60,000-acre Klaserie Reserve, a concession in the country's northeast where few other lodges trouble the game. The modern design bucks the dated devotion to colonial architecture at other safari camps. Also contemporary: the impressive wellness offering, with yoga, personalized functional training, and an infrared Himalayan-salt sauna. And you won't be completely off-grid. Owner Joel Ospovat installed a main internet carrier and a backup.	 The 33,000 square-foot, 10-bedroom home, built by Sarco architects, sits on its own three-acre compound on Papagayo Peninsula. Think of it as a private playland: There's a flotilla of water toys, including e-foils and a captained, 42-foot yacht on call, plus a concierge ready to wrangle a tee time at the Arnold Palmer Ocean Course next door. And yes, that steak does taste like Wagyu. The chef partners with a local farmer who raises cows with Japanese heritage right there in Costa Rica.	 Yves Saint Laurent's former home in Tangier, an Art Deco-era mansion right on the cliffside, reopened last June as a sumptuously maximalist 12-room hotel, courtesy of interior designer-turned-hotelier Jasper Conran. In addition to the six rooms in the main house (to which Conran added a rooftop bar), there are also six new private cottages, which required digging up and relandscaping the two-acre garden with more than 6,500 plants.



NATURAL IMMERSION

ANDBEYOND

Punakha River Lodge, Bhutan

IF YOU'VE TRAVELED to andBeyond's African camps, you know to expect the unexpected: Makeshift bars set up near watering holes frequented by elephants and zebras; picnics arranged in the bush as giraffes graze in the distance. So how does the seasoned operator transport that experience to the Bhutanese countryside? At first glance, andBeyond Punakha River Lodge's six sumptuous, tentlike lodgings may seem familiar to safari-goers, but the ethos is distinctly local. There are no game drives here; instead, tours lean into the Himalayan kingdom's rich history and Buddhist traditions: archery lessons, treks to sky-high temples, and visits to secluded mountaintop villages, all surrounded by snowcapped peaks. But (spoiler alert) the surprises continue—a breakfast spread overlooking a temple might await you at the end of an early morning hike, lunch can materialize on a cliff surrounded by colorful prayer flags fluttering in the breeze, and drinks appear on a sandy riverbank as the sun sets over the 17th-century Punakha Dzong monastery. *Suites from $890*

WILLIAM JESS LAIRD

HISTORIC CONVERSION

LA PALMA

Capri, Italy

THE LONG-DELAYED two-and-a-half-year gut renovation of Capri's oldest hotel, which dates back to 1822, was finally completed last summer. And it was worth the wait.

The 50 or so rooms and suites were reimagined by interior designer Francis Sultana in a palette of pale sherbets. They have every possible amenity—yes, that's a branded bath pillow—and guests receive a generous gift every night at turndown, from cookies to night masks, as is typical at Oetker-operated hotels. The configurations of the rooms differ wildly, but the splashiest is the 861-square-foot La Palma suite. Social butterflies will prefer the smaller suites on the second floor (numbers 110 to 115) whose terraces have direct access to the new pool.

On an island where sandy beaches are rare, La Palma's greatest asset is off-site: Its shore club, Da Gioia, is a time-warpishly fabulous hangout offering a jolt of dolce vita glamour, even in midsummer while crowds throng nearby. Book the private cove, which can accommodate up to six people and is thankfully close enough to the restaurant to keep the rosé flowing. And spend at least one evening at the nightclub in the basement, Anema e Core. The branded tambourines you'll use to tap along to the house band are the best souvenir. *From about $2,677*

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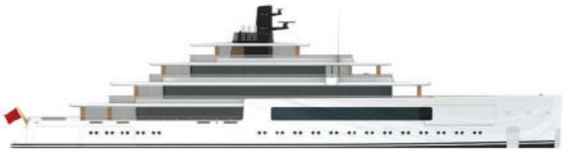
// **BOZCA** LIMITLESS DESIGN



// **ESPEN ØINO** INTERNATIONAL

// **H2** YACHT DESIGN

// **HOT** LAB

// **LOBANOV** DESIGN

// **NUVOLARI** LENARD

// **OCEANCO**

// **PASCOLI** INTERNATIONAL

// **SORGIOVANNI** DESIGN

// **TAYLOR** DESIGN

// **TEAM FOR** DESIGN - ENRICO GOBBI

// THE **A** GROUP

// *the* **TOUCH** STUDIO

// **VALLICELLI** DESIGN

// **WINCH** DESIGN

UPDATED CLASSIC

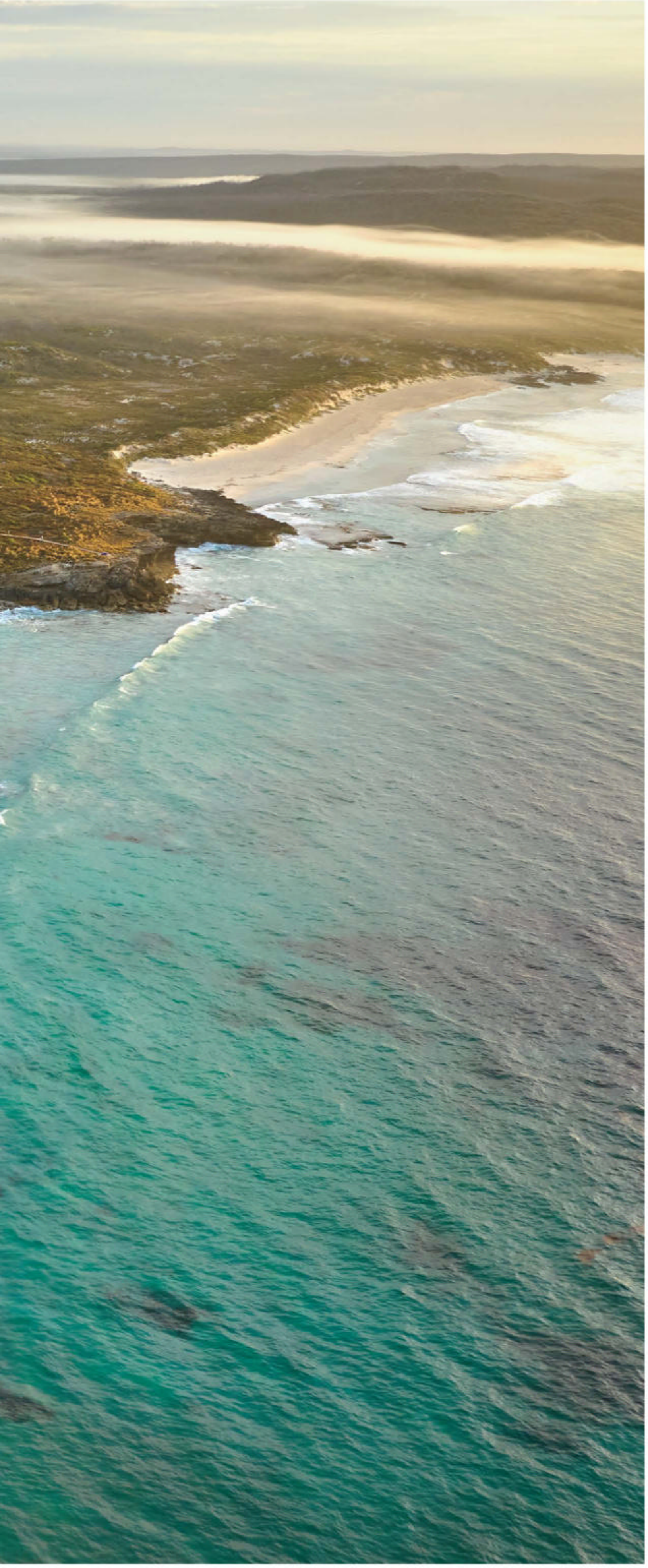
MAROMA

Riviera Maya, Mexico

INTERIOR DESIGNER Tara Bernerd brought her swaggering style to the multimillion-dollar reimagining of this property, the first of Belmond's historic North American hotels to benefit from the deep pockets of new owner LVMH.

She met the challenge magnificently. Checking into one of the 72 rooms or villas, decorated in a style best described as Mexican midcentury modern, feels like staying at the beachfront home of a sophisticated friend. The airy spaces are heavy on earth tones, with dashes of turquoise and yellow on details such as the floor tiles—made, like 80 percent of the decorative elements, right here in Mexico. The suites are jam-packed with thoughtful touches, too: Take the branded sunglass-cleaning cloth, or the minibar and its full cocktail-making set, plus unisex cotton caftans (not robes) to wear in the room or on the beach.

The Curtis Stone–helmed restaurant, Woodend, is fine, but the food's just as good at the hotel's own all-day spot, Casa Mayor. Make sure to order its Catch of the Day in Molcajete, a tart, corn-studded ceviche of locally caught fish. Better yet, make it two. One won't be enough. *From $1,095*



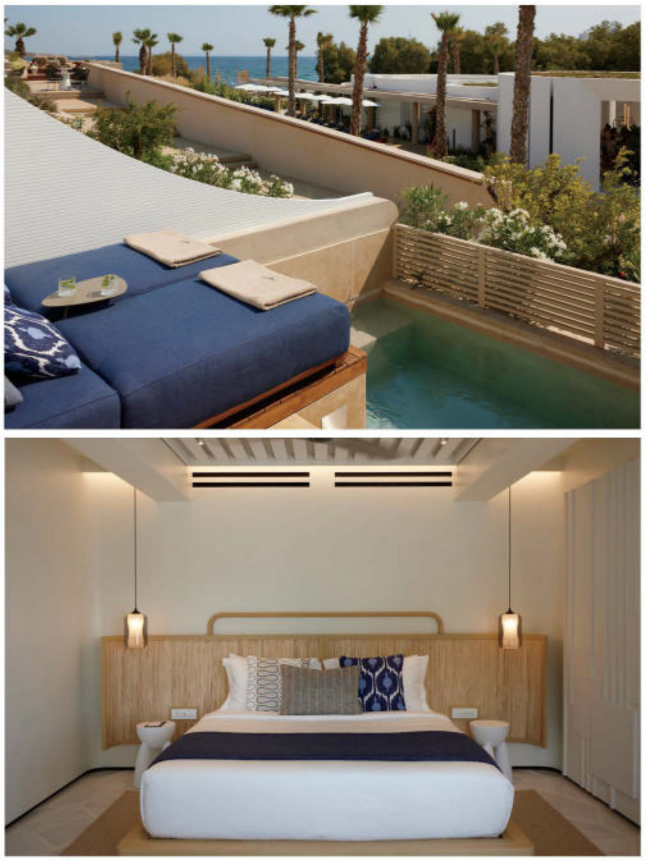
RENOVATION

SOUTHERN OCEAN LODGE

Kangaroo Island, Australia

IN 2020, WILDFIRES incinerated nearly half of Kangaroo Island, the hardscrabble, beautiful landform off the coast of South Australia. Its premier property, Southern Ocean Lodge, was razed; after nearly four years of renovations, it reopened in December. It's a credit to the architect, Max Pritchard, that few realize this is a close replica of the original. Suites—the only room category—still project like a tentacle from version 2.0 of the airy, central great room. And a sense of residential comfort still dominates. There are books everywhere. The dining room doesn't take reservations. (Guests simply call ahead to say when they'd like to eat.) The central bar is self-service. Want wine? Just walk into the cellar and take what you like. At oversize resorts, they call this sort of thing "all inclusive," but here, it's just easy, the way it would be at home.

Veterans will notice discrepancies. There are now 25, rather than 23, rooms. The bar is longer. There's a new four-bedroom suite overlooking the lodge. What hasn't changed are the daily guided excursions through this resilient landscape, rich with penguins, seals, koalas, and of course, kangaroos. *From about $2,200*



AEGEAN RETREAT

AVANT MAR

Paros, Greece

DON'T BE SURPRISED to see general manager Anna Asimakopoulou floating around this small property in the heart of Naoussa, her shaggy dog, Athena, trailing behind her. Like Mrs. Madrigal of 28 Barbary Lane, she's equal parts warm and firm, which helps the 38-room property stand out from many of its rivals, where service is slapdash at best. Catch the eye of any staffer, and they'll smile and offer to help without missing a beat.

Its design looks inward, centered on a 180-foot pool—don't miss the chance to take a selfie or two at the infinity-edged end nearest the ocean. It's a new build, which allowed extra amenities to be squeezed into the compact footprint. Matsuhisa Paros, Chef Nobu's restaurant at the hotel, reopened in June, but there's also an all-day bakery serving homemade Greek pastries right by reception. A gin-and-tonic-focused bar called the Bridge, the newest addition to the property, offers views of the Aegean and the nearby Naoussa port.

As for the rooms, the best will be one of the seven with a private plunge pool, each of which has a superb view over the beach and to the town beyond. *From $772*

LOCAL CHARM

VIOLINO D'ORO

Venice, Italy

THINK OF THIS 32-room hotel, which opened in November, as a contrast to the bombastic names that dominate the hotel scene here—one powered by a generosity that only family-run properties can offer. (The jars of candy in the lobby are, dangerously, regularly refilled.) Owner Sara Maestrelli painstakingly restored a trio of buildings minutes from Piazza San Marco, and the gemlike result acts as a tribute to traditional Italian crafts. There's glass everywhere, from elaborate Murano-blown chandeliers to the keepsake-like key fobs; the headboards are upholstered in custom fabrics by local textile house Rubelli. Even the gold-leather menu holders are made-to-order by Consani e Giannini.

Rooms 21 and 22 don't connect, but they do share a discreet private staircase, so they're perfect if you're traveling in a small group. Or you can dispense with superstition and book room 13, Maestrelli's favorite, which sits at the heart of the hotel, with its own private terrace hidden from the hubbub below. And yes, there is a golden violin, though it's easy to overlook, in a glass vitrine right by the entrance. *From $865*

WILLIAM ABRANOWICZ

CITY CHIC

THE FIFTH AVENUE HOTEL

New York City

FOR THOSE CRAVING a cozy antidote to sprawling anodyne luxury, the charming Fifth Avenue Hotel has opened its doors at long last. Owner Alex Ohebshalom and designer Martin Brudnizki have transformed a 19th-century McKim, Mead & White building, plus an adjoining new 24-story glass tower, into a colorful and kaleidoscopically eclectic take on clubby Manhattan hotels of yore. This is hospitality with a point of view—specifically, Gilded Age New York through a heady psilocybin buzz. Rooms hum with color, pattern, and texture, from pink and pistachio-mint walls to hand-painted bone china to a Murano-glass chandelier dangling a rainbow-hued harvest of fruits. Several of the 43 suites come with terraces; the sprawling Flaneur penthouse includes an outdoor soaking tub and Japanese garden overlooking the skyline.

The experience is one of dreamlike intimacy—the feeling that at the end of an ornate, *Alice in Wonderland* hallway sits your own Flatiron pied-à-terre with 24-hour butler service and an on-demand martini cart in the evenings. In true high-low N.Y.C. fashion, the seductively chic Portrait Bar offers both osetra caviar and a hot dog au poivre. Or head upstairs to Andrew Carmellini's eponymous café, buzzing with Art Deco glamour, where the longtime star chef continues the reverie, serving his impeccably elevated Italian fare beneath a pair of soaring sculptural trees. *From $895*

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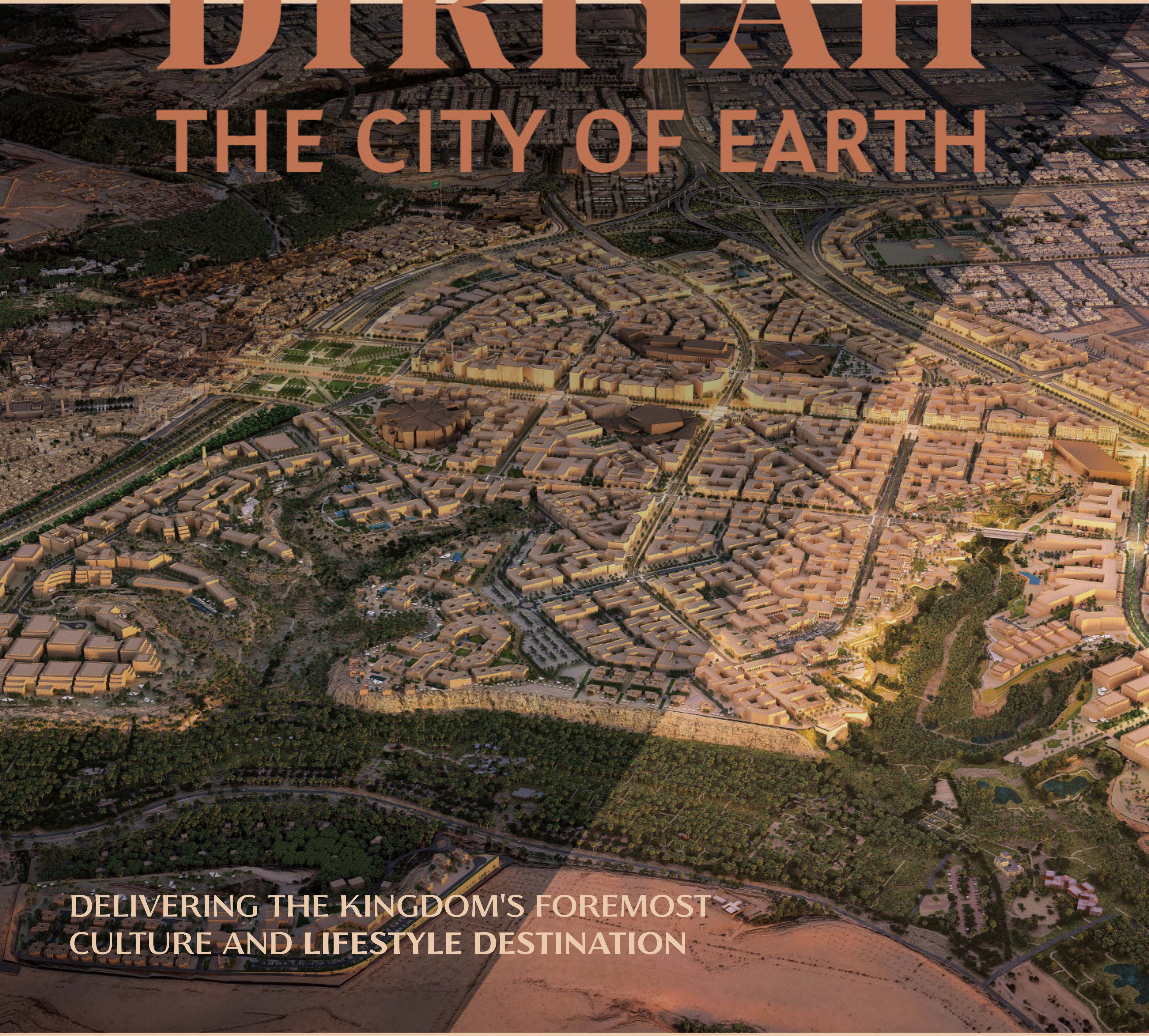

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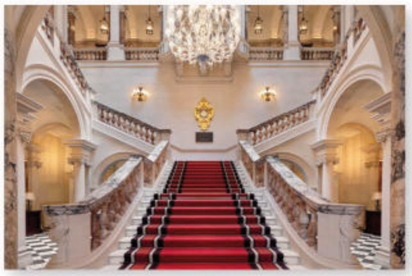
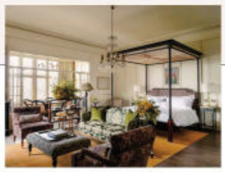
FULL ENGLISH

The U.K. has seen a flurry of luxe hotel openings in the past year, but a trio of new properties truly stand out—each of them distinctive and distinguished in equal measure.

	URBAN BOLT-HOLE **Broadwick Soho, London** *From about $615*	**GRANDE DAME** **Raffles London at the OWO** *From $1,252*	**COUNTRY ESTATE** **Estelle Manor, Oxfordshire** *From about $625*
THE BACKSTORY	 In an homage to his parents' former hotel in Bournemouth, owner Noel Hayden created one showstopper of a property with designer du jour Martin Brudnizki. There's a cherry-red awning and towering pink elephants on the facade, and a bubble-gum-pink door welcomes you into the snug lobby adorned with Murano-glass chandeliers, patterned wallpaper, and plush couches.	 This billion-dollar-plus overhaul of the Old War Office (the city-block-size former home of Britain's Ministry of Defence, where Churchill once worked) turned it into a 120-room hotel. The result includes everything from a fine-dining spot helmed by Mauro Colagreco (who won three Michelin stars with Mirazur in Menton, France) to a multi-floor, subterranean spa.	 Nestled in the Cotswolds, this sprawling 85-acre estate is the sister property to London's Maison Estelle, a buzzy private members' club and brainchild of Gleneagles owner Sharan Pasricha. The Grade II–listed rural retreat combines 108 rooms and suites with a newly opened 32,000-square-foot bath house and spa inspired by ancient Rome.
STANDOUT AMENITY	 The penthouse's private terrace with views over the city.	 Borrow one of the custom Pashley bikes to pootle around nearby St. James's Park—the firm's founder was a dispatch messenger here during WWI.	 The Glasshouse restaurant is truly outstanding: a charming, bright room; fun, friendly staff; and imaginative and beautifully executed dishes.
ROOM TO BOOK	 The penthouse, whose splashy living room is decorated with built-in bookshelves and a custom sectional upholstered in gold.	 The one-bedroom Granville suite, named after Mata Hari–like spy Christine Granville, has a jaw-dropping bathroom, complete with a brass rolltop tub.	 The Estelle suites are the most spacious. A few come with large private balconies where you can enjoy a gin and tonic and take in the lush gardens.
PRO TIP	 Order a French 75 at the swish seventh-floor bar, Flute. Hotel guests get first dibs on weekends; if it's warm, snag a seat on the wraparound terrace.	 Get a drink at the Guards bar. Its liquid tasting menu (about $200) offers a sampler of eight mini cocktails, including the signature London Sling.	 Book a treatment with Manos Dimoudis, the master in residence at the spa, a soft-spoken wellness Jedi who delivers world-class massages.

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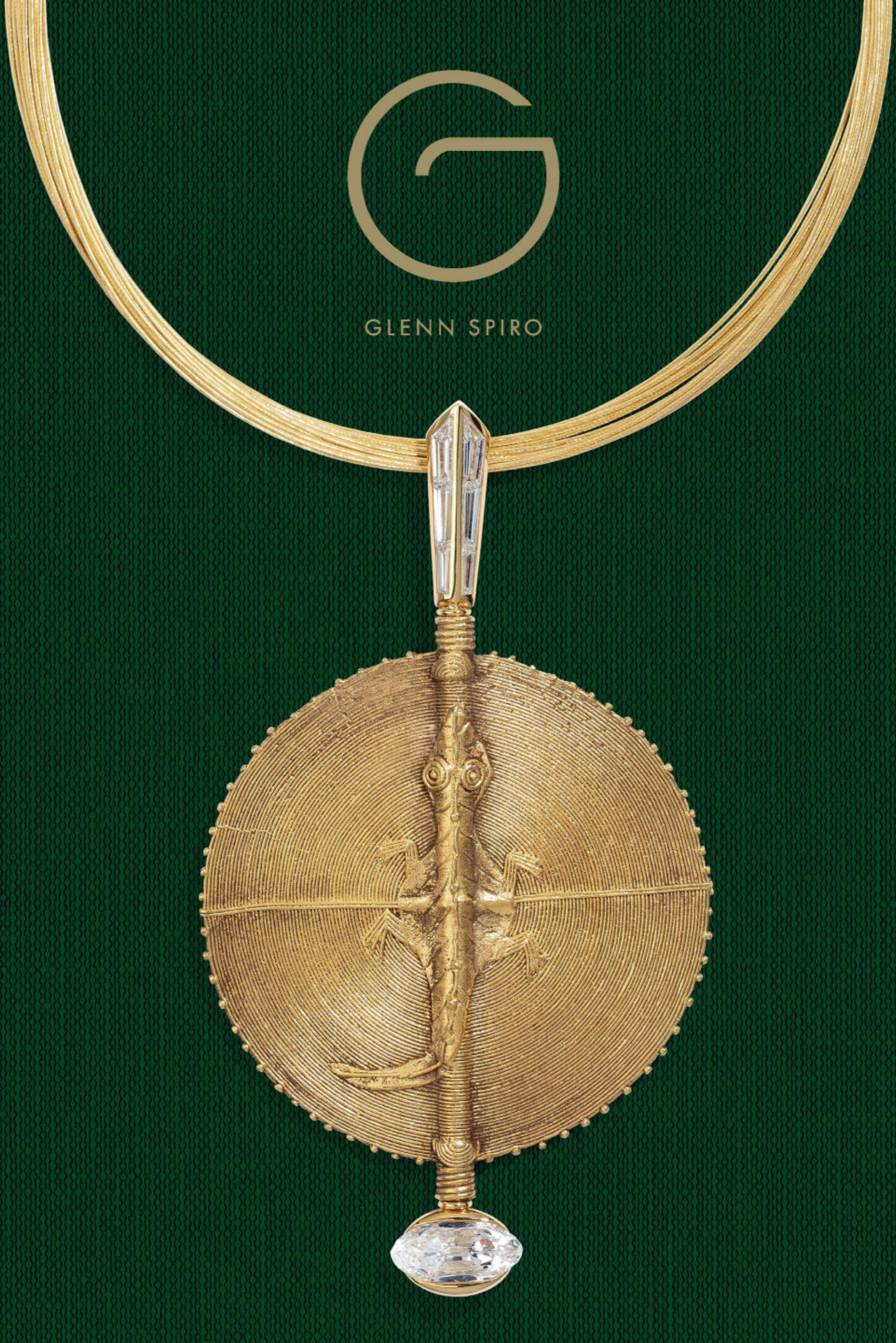

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WINE

By Mike DeSimone and Jeff Jenssen

THE BIG IDEA

A TALE OF TWO MARKETS

WINE SEEMS TO be in a very confusing place right now. If you follow news at all, you've probably read plenty of gloomy assessments: Young consumers are drinking less alcohol than previous generations, and those who do are favoring spirits, ready-to-drink cocktails, hard seltzers—that is to say, almost anything other than fermented grapes. Such headlines might make you think the end is near for the wine industry, which is stuck in a doom loop and fervently hoping that the older members of Gen Z suddenly develop a taste for fine Bordeaux and Burgundy.

And yet the top of the market is soaring. In 2023, Sotheby's Fine Wine and Spirits division had its best year ever, taking in a record $159 million—a million more than in 2022 and representing 73 percent growth in just three years. Nick Pegna, Sotheby's global head of wine and spirits, says that lower prices due to cyclical course correction in the secondary market created more opportunities for buyers to purchase at auction and that he expects to see strong sales through the end of 2025. "There is definitely more confidence in the market at present than we saw at the end of 2023 and signs of more market activity," he notes.

Also buffering the industry are a rash of exciting new releases aimed at collectors and the high end of the market. Take Pierre and Hélène Seillan, the father-daughter duo behind Vérité, in Sonoma, Calif., who just launched new wines under the Connaissance label, which focuses on micro-crus within Vérité's vineyards and will be limited to just 1,500 bottles per variety. Meanwhile, renowned Napa Valley winemaker Chris Carpenter has ventured north, to Walla Walla, Wash., and is coming out with the first bottlings of Jett, which include a single-vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon. And wunderkind Sonoma winemaker Jesse Katz has teamed up with Marc and Jake Taub, of Taub Family Vineyards, on the premiere release of Sign of the Dove, which offers two single-designate wines from a pair of Napa's most sought-after plots that will be sold in three-packs on allocation only.

Another glimmer of hope: In contrast to years of data indicating that younger people are avoiding wine, a new study from the Wine Market Council shows that millennials, especially those over 30, are actually drinking more of it—and more expensive bottles than previously believed. After almost a decade of hand-wringing, it seems that maybe the kids (and the wine market that needs them) are all right.

ILLUSTRATION BY Emmanuel Polanco

WINE OF THE YEAR

DOMAINE DES LAMBRAYS

2020 Clos des Lambrays Grand Cru (Burgundy, France)

MADE IN THE FIRST year that the vineyards were converted to biodynamic farming, this Pinot Noir is the second vintage produced from the estate's walled clos by legendary winemaker Jacques Devauges. Despite a summer heat wave and a harvest that was the earliest in 30 years, Devauges tells *Robb Report* that 2020 is noted for its freshness and credits the complexity of the vineyard soils for this wine's "three-dimensional" aromas of fruits, spices, dry herbs, tobacco, and flowers. Twenty months of barrel aging have added polished tannins and notes of butterscotch and cocoa powder to Mission-fig and black-cherry flavors. *$740*

LAMBRAYS
GRAND CRU
DE BOURGOGNE
CLOS DES LAMBRAYS
GRAND CRU
APPELLATION CONTRÔLÉE
2020
DOMAINE DES LAMBRAYS
PROPRIÉTAIRE À MOREY-SAINT-DENIS, FRANCE

PHOTOGRAPHY BY **Zen Sekizawa** STYLING BY **Jessie Graham**

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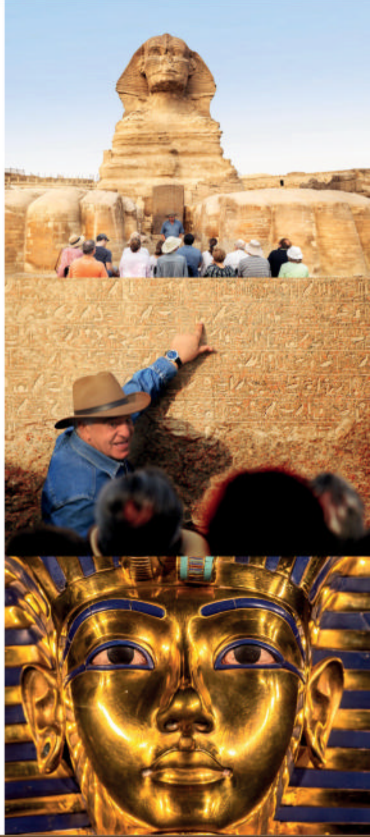

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ROSÉ CHAMPAGNE

CHAMPAGNE KRUG

Rosé 27ème Édition

THIS 27TH RELEASE of Krug's multi-vintage rosé Champagne is made with 38 wines from nine harvest years from 2005 through 2015. Cellar master Julie Cavil calls this the most difficult Champagne to make at Krug, explaining, "It must reconcile the finesse, freshness, and lightness of a Champagne with the aromas and structure of a red wine." The majority of the cuvée is from 2015, including 10 percent traditionally macerated Pinot Noir, which adds spiciness, color, and texture. Flavors of tangerine, apricot, and raspberry mingle with notes of lemon zest and toasted almond that dissolve into a baking-spice-scented finish. *$399*

WHITE CHAMPAGNE

VEUVE CLICQUOT

La Grande Dame 2015

HOUSE FOUNDER Madame Clicquot was fond of saying, "Our black grapes give the finest white wines," and this vintage Champagne made with 90 percent Pinot Noir is no exception. As *chef de cave* Didier Mariotti points out, "The acidity at the beginning whets your palate, while the bitterness at the end helps to create a long finish." La Grande Dame is made only in exceptional years, and Mariotti describes 2015 as a "beautiful" vintage in Champagne, "all about tension and elegance." A cuvée sourced from eight grand-cru appellations, LGD 2015 offers a bold expression of orchard fruit and a precise, mineral-driven finish. *$210*

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AMERICAN WHITE WINE

PAHLMEYER

2021 Chardonnay (Napa Valley, Calif.)

THE FIRST VINTAGE produced in Pahlmeyer's new winery on Atlas Peak Road—the previous facility burned in 2020's Glass Fire—this Chardonnay was made with high-elevation grapes that grow above the fog line, where they can grab much-needed extra sunlight each day. Head winemaker Katie Vogt credits the season's low yields and tight clusters for 2021's structure, concentration, acidity, and ageability, suggesting that its peak drinking window is within the next two to four years. Full textured, it offers Bartlett-pear, bergamot, butterscotch, and slivered-almond flavors with gorgeous mouthfeel and an enduring finish. *$115*

Varietal
Chardonnay
Pahlmeyer
2021.
EMERITUS

2019
CARDINALE

AMERICAN PINOT NOIR

EMERITUS VINEYARDS

2019 La Combette Pinot Noir (Sonoma, Calif.)

NAMED FOR A SOFTLY inclined triangular block on the estate's Hallberg Ranch, La Combette is made only in outstanding years. The 20th anniversary of Emeritus's founding by Brice Cutrer Jones, 2019 also marks the year he retired and passed the torch to his daughter, Mari. To concentrate flavors and textures, Jones and her team "dropped" half of the grapes early in the season so that Combette yielded half the quantity of her other vineyard blocks. Eleven months in used French barrels created a wine with layered flavors of pomegranate, Oolong tea, and dried Mediterranean herbs, along with lush tannins and dazzling acidity. *$115*

AMERICAN CABERNET SAUVIGNON

CARDINALE

2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley, Calif.)

A MULTI-APPELLATION Napa Valley cuvée focusing on high-elevation mountain fruit, Cardinale 2019 is mainly Cabernet Sauvignon with 9 percent Merlot. The first vintage in which new winemaking partner Gianna Ghilarducci worked alongside winemaker Chris Carpenter, it was also one with a very long growing season that, as Carpenter explains, allowed the fruit to hang on the vine and accumulate flavor as opposed to just sugar. Its velvety tannins and complex layers of black-cherry, blackberry, clove, and dark-chocolate flavors are perfect to enjoy now after decanting, but this will lay down beautifully for up to 25 years. *$350*

CHATEAU
GRAND CRU CLASSÉ EN 1855
COS D'ESTOURNEL
SAINT - ESTÈPHE
2020
C'était Cos sinon rien
GÉRARD BERTRAND
Clos du Temple
2022
CABRIÈRES

BORDEAUX

CHATEAU COS D'ESTOURNEL

2020 Saint-Estèphe (Bordeaux, France)

IN HONOR OF PROPRIETOR Michel Reybier's 20th year leading the storied Saint-Estèphe estate, the engraved bottle of Cos d'Estournel 2020 reads *C'etait Cos sinon rien*, or "It was Cos, otherwise nothing," a very fitting phrase for this sublime release. While the hot and dry summer led to one of the earliest harvests ever, neither finesse nor freshness was sacrificed in pursuit of full flavor. This Cabernet Sauvignon–Merlot blend offers incredible balance and complexity, with layers of blackberry, raspberry, mocha, black-tea, and nutmeg flavors wrapped in powerful tannins that will mellow to perfect drinkability while lovingly stored in your cellar. *$215*

ROSÉ

GÉRARD BERTRAND

2022 Clos du Temple (A.O.P. Languedoc Cabrières, France)

THE RARE ROSÉ that's designed to age, Clos du Temple will continue to evolve for up to 25 years, according to winemaker and owner Gérard Bertrand. Five grape varieties from 11 plots filled with limestone and schist known as *écailles de Cabrières* were grown using biodynamic principles and aged in new oak for six months. The bottle itself is a work of art; its square base and rounded shoulders were crafted using the golden ratio. Pale pink to the eye, it features flavors of passionfruit, nectarine, Turkish delight, and a hint of sage leaf that lingers on the palate. *$195*

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DOMAINE ZIND HUMBRECHT
2021
DOMAINE BERTAGNA
VOUGEOT
Premier Cru
LES CRAS
WHITE BURGUNDY WINE

AROMATIC WHITE

ZIND HUMBRECHT

2020 Rangen de Thann Clos Saint Urbain Riesling (Alsace, France)

FROM A WALLED vineyard in the Rangen de Thann grand cru in Alsace, this dry Riesling has an exhilarating bouquet of Anjou pear, white peach, sliced ginger, orange blossom, and smoke. The first full vintage made by Pierre-Emile Humbrecht, from the 13th generation of the founding family, the 2020 showcases the beauty of its volcanic terroir and a season that is said to have offered perfect weather. It delights on the palate as well, offering sumptuous viscosity, brilliant acidity, and vivid nectarine, apricot, jasmine, and beeswax flavors with intense salinity on the finish. Perfect now, it will also age impeccably for another two decades. *$125*

WHITE BURGUNDY

DOMAINE BERTAGNA

2021 Vougeot Premier Cru Les Cras Blanc (Vougeot, France)

PROPRIETOR AND WINEMAKER Eva Reh tells *Robb Report* that 2021 was the most difficult vintage she has encountered since joining her family's winery in 1988. Freezing spring temperatures, hail in springtime and July, and summertime rain could have destroyed the entire crop, but Reh, vineyard manager Arnaud Lecoeur, and newly promoted cellar master Franck Ambeis were able to make 970 bottles, far less than Domaine Bertagna's usual 2,200. This white Burgundy is a rare treat even in normal years, as Vougeot is known mostly for its reds, but the 2021 in particular offers luscious flavors of peach and Bartlett pear with soft notes of beeswax and oyster shell on the long, silky finish. *$186*

BAROLO
FALLETTO

ITALY

BRUNO GIACOSA

2019 Falletto Vigna
Le Rocche (Barolo)

Bruna Giacosa took over her venerated father's winery in 2006 and continues to be a steadfast presence in Barolo today. Her 2019 Falletto Vigna Le Rocche has flavors of cherry and black raspberry that dance on your tongue. It's drinking beautifully right now, but don't hesitate to enjoy it through 2045. *$330*

FELTON ROAD
PINOT NOIR

NEW ZEALAND

FELTON ROAD

2021 MacMuir Pinot Noir
(Central Otago)

Grapes for this enticing cool-climate Pinot Noir are grown in the MacMuir vineyard, known for its high vine density, multiple Pinot Noir clones, and deep, heavy soils. Brilliant garnet in the glass, it offers aromas of freshly picked cherry, red raspberry, and tobacco leaf that transition seamlessly on the palate. *$75*

51°N
GUSBOURNE

UNITED KINGDOM

GUSBOURNE

2014 Fifty-One Degrees North
Sparkling Wine
(Kent and Sussex, England)

With vineyards sitting at a latitude of, yes, 51 degrees North, Gusbourne released just 2,500 bottles of this sparkling wine, coinciding with the winery's 10th anniversary. Vivacious with fine and seemingly endless bubbles, it has flavors of apple, pear, and freshly baked brioche, with crisp acidity in the mid-palate. *$370*

Lapostolle
la Parcelle 8

CHILE

LAPOSTOLLE

2020 La Parcelle 8 Cabernet
Sauvignon (Apalta)

Crafted from grapes grown on Pied Franc vines planted in 1907, this enchanting Cab has flavors of blueberry, black currant, dried savory herbs, and graphite. The elegant tannins and balanced acidity come courtesy of winemaker Andrea Leon's nimble decision to begin the harvest early due to warm conditions in 2020. *$180*

ALTO
ALTA VISTA

ARGENTINA

ALTA VISTA

2019 Alto (Mendoza)

Patrick d'Aulan's family has been involved in Champagne for nearly 250 years, but in 1998 he assembled a dream team of Argentine and French winemakers and growers to express the high-altitude terroirs of Mendoza. Malbec grapes are sourced from 100-year-old vines endowing this captivating wine with flavors of blackberry, black plum, and cassis that explode in the mouth. *$110*

ST HENRI
SHIRAZ
PENFOLDS

AUSTRALIA

PENFOLDS

2018 St. Henri Shiraz
(Southeastern Australia)

Wine lovers and collectors know Grange, but Syrah lovers *love* St. Henri. Only 284 cases are imported to the U.S., so if you have the chance to enjoy its ethereal flavors of black raspberry and mocha, take it. Winemaker Peter Gago tells *Robb Report* that it should "drink well over the next half century." *$150*

VALLADO
PORTO
50
YEARS
OLD TAWNY

PORTUGAL

QUINTA DO VALLADO

50 Year Tawny Port (Douro)

A blend of wines ranging from 30 to 136 years old, this ambrosial wine (with an average age of 50 years) is the best in the 50-year category recently approved by the Port wine governing body. It has aromas and flavors of honey and sweet, candied orange peel, with vibrant acidity in the finish. *$400*

12
Valduero

SPAIN

VALDUERO

2004 Gran Reserva 12 Años
(Ribera del Duero)

Crafted by one of Ribera del Duero's premier female winemakers, this Tempranillo is made only by hand and never touched by machines. Aged for four years in the barrel and 16 years in bottle, it's drinking perfectly now, with ripe red- and black-fruit flavors, but will continue to improve over the next decade. *$1,500*

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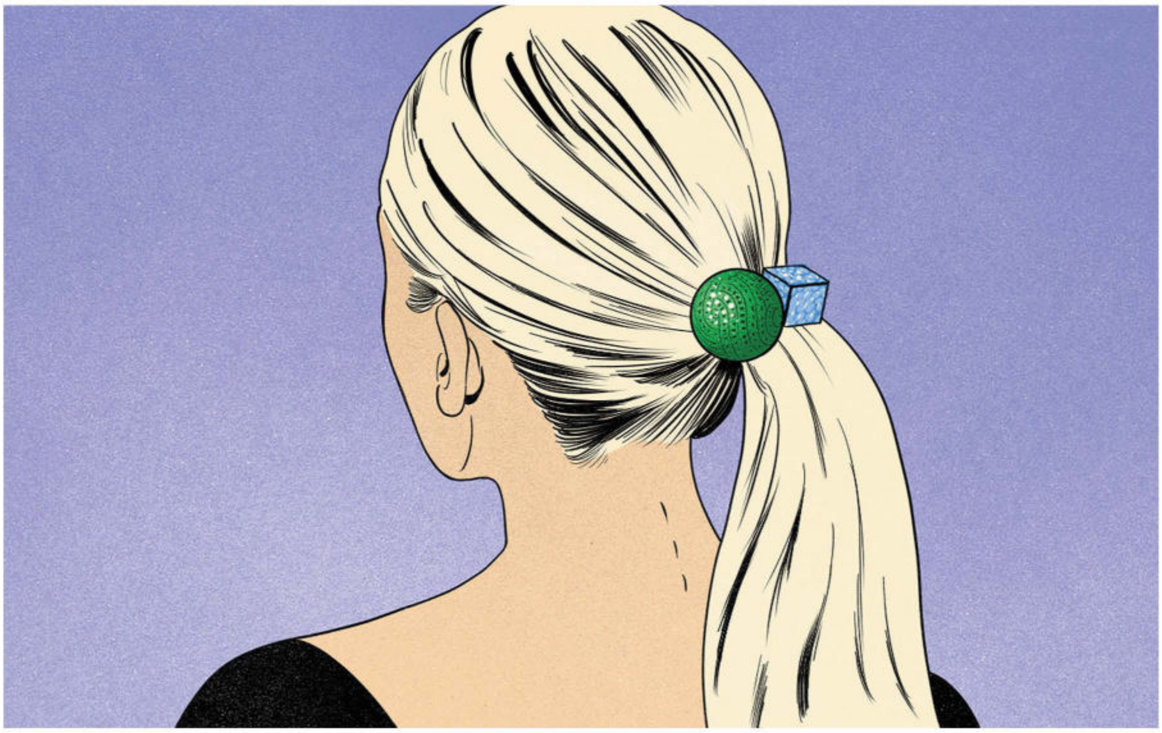


THE BIG IDEA

HIGH JEWELRY GETS HIP

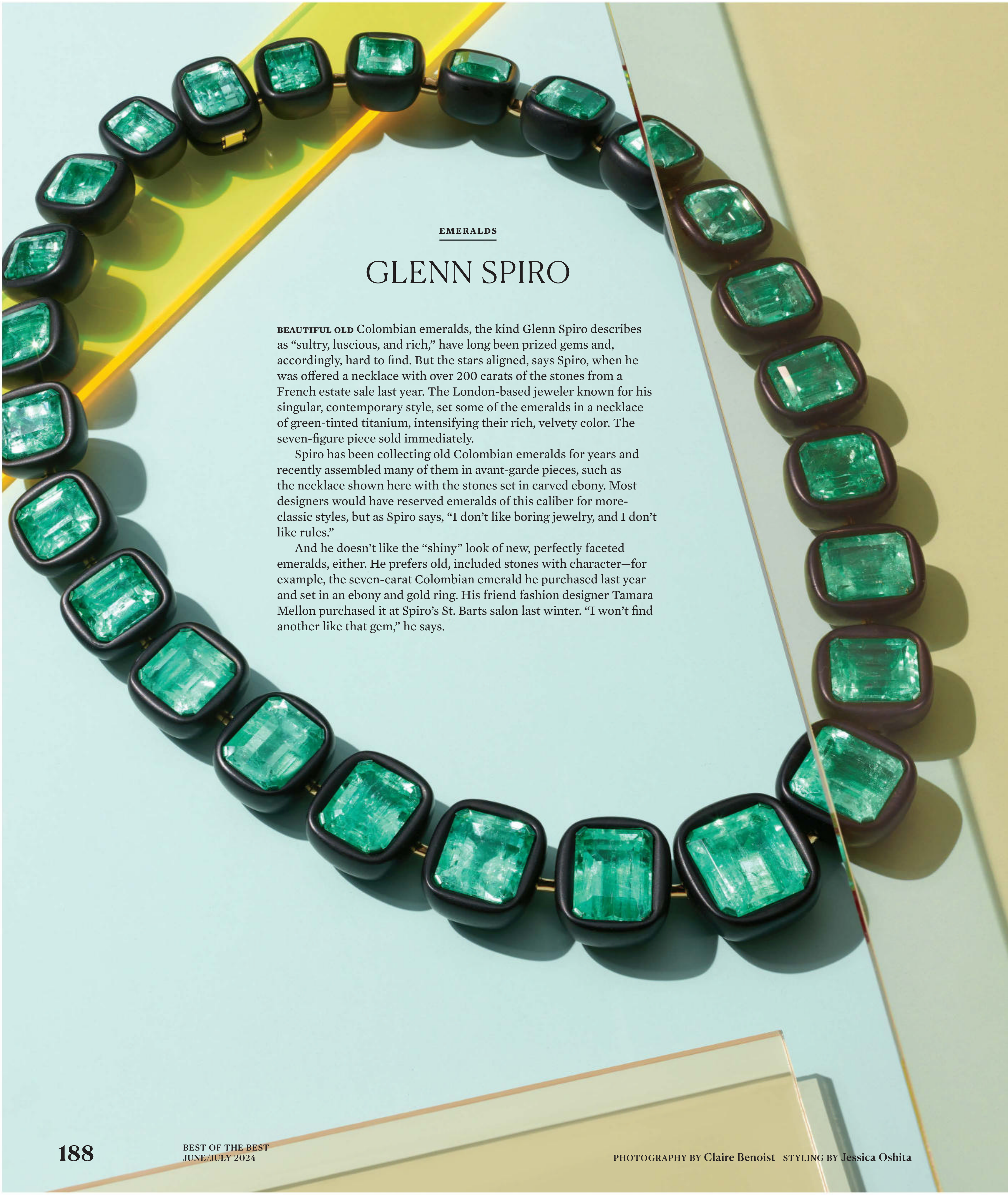
GEM-SET HOODIE tassels? A magnetic jeweled pocket that doubles as a cuff? A carabiner dripping in precious stones? If such adornments don't sound like *haute joaillerie,* get ready for the new French revolution. Rather than sticking to the standard fare (think opulent gala necklaces and earrings in classic motifs and familiar cuts), Boucheron, Cartier, Chaumet, and other establishment ateliers are devising entirely new—and often quite casual—ways to rock extravagant stones.

At Boucheron last July, exuberant models danced to "Wake Me Up Before You Go-Go" by Wham! and other colorful '80s hits while decked in high-wattage jewels that ranged from the aforementioned hoodie tassels to a bejeweled Rubik's Cube–style necklace to a pom-pom hair tie sparkling with tsavorites. It was a far-out spectacle for the gilded space in Paris's jewelry mecca, the Place Vendôme—and a signifier of what's to come. Boucheron's creative director, Claire Choisne, has been pushing the envelope for years with her out-of-the-box creations, whether an ear climber of diamond-encrusted octopus tentacles or a pendant necklace whose centerpiece is made of Aerogel, a high-tech, ultralight material used by NASA to catch stardust.

It has been a welcome shake-up in the otherwise rigid confines of high jewelry, and now other *maisons,* including Cartier and Chaumet, are starting to follow suit, dreaming up funkier pieces in an effort to appeal to new generations of well-heeled clients with decidedly more informal lifestyles. In January, Chaumet, known for its tiaras since the 18th century, presented an eight-piece capsule collection, Un Air de Chaumet, including avian-themed earcuffs with diamond and gold plumes that curled up over the ear as if in flight, while a diamond hair ornament portrayed a soaring flock of birds. Cartier set a utilitarian carabiner in a brilliant array of diamonds, emeralds, rubies, sapphires, lapis lazuli, onyx, black spinel, turquoise, and chrysoprase; meant to dangle from a belt loop, it even features a tiny jewel-encrusted clock. It was among a handful of wild, one-of-a-kind pieces from the company's Polymorph collection, which debuted in March. Even the brand's 110-year-old Panthère motif got a makeover: Diamond, onyx, and moonstone claws adorn a clock brooch that fastens to a lapel as if pawing its edge.

In a *métier d'art* that arguably hasn't evolved much since the 1920s, this burgeoning revolution suggests that how we one day wear jewels may be limited only by designers' imaginations.

ILLUSTRATION BY Emmanuel Polanco



EMERALDS

GLENN SPIRO

BEAUTIFUL OLD Colombian emeralds, the kind Glenn Spiro describes as “sultry, luscious, and rich,” have long been prized gems and, accordingly, hard to find. But the stars aligned, says Spiro, when he was offered a necklace with over 200 carats of the stones from a French estate sale last year. The London-based jeweler known for his singular, contemporary style, set some of the emeralds in a necklace of green-tinted titanium, intensifying their rich, velvety color. The seven-figure piece sold immediately.

Spiro has been collecting old Colombian emeralds for years and recently assembled many of them in avant-garde pieces, such as the necklace shown here with the stones set in carved ebony. Most designers would have reserved emeralds of this caliber for more-classic styles, but as Spiro says, “I don’t like boring jewelry, and I don’t like rules.”

And he doesn’t like the “shiny” look of new, perfectly faceted emeralds, either. He prefers old, included stones with character—for example, the seven-carat Colombian emerald he purchased last year and set in an ebony and gold ring. His friend fashion designer Tamara Mellon purchased it at Spiro’s St. Barts salon last winter. “I won’t find another like that gem,” he says.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY Claire Benoist STYLING BY Jessica Oshita

MATERIAL INNOVATION

FERNANDO JORGE

High Collection

ON A TRIP to a national park in his native Brazil, designer Fernando Jorge picked up a smooth brown pebble from a dried riverbed, which got him thinking about what defines beauty. That reverie led to his latest high-jewelry collection, which combines brown diamonds with sculpted brown pebbles, and white diamonds with marble, in large, curvaceous cuffs, rings, and earrings. "I found it intriguing to place diamonds with humble pebbles," says Jorge. "The diamonds brought out the beauty in the pebbles."

In another play on contrasting materials, he set vibrant Brazilian emeralds in carved-malachite designs and rare yellow diamonds in yellow amber (seen here). The 16-piece capsule collection, unveiled at Jorge's first solo exhibition at Sotheby's in New York in November, presents jewelry as more than the sum of its parts—but rather as an artistic expression of color, texture, and shape.

SOLITAIRE DIAMOND RING

HEMMERLE

ANYONE FAMILIAR with Hemmerle's arresting aesthetic will instantly recognize the jeweler's solitaire diamond rings. The tip-off? The purity of the sculptural setting rendered in unassuming bronze, brushed matte gold, or iron metals—and, of course, the diamond. "We look for diamonds that have a unique character," says fourth-generation proprietor Christian Hemmerle. He searches for old stones, preferably those with an old-mine cut, which he says have "an unparalleled beauty, as they were cut by hand before the invention of modern equipment, giving a more natural and unprocessed quality to the stone."

What appears remarkably simple is the most complex to achieve; it's an exercise in restraint. "We focus on creating a harmonious coexistence of materials, textures, and colors that embody the researched simplicity we wish to evoke in each creation," says Yasmin Hemmerle, Christian's wife and cohead of the company. Inside the house's Munich atelier, the couple collaborate with master goldsmiths to develop the perfect metal patination that will enhance each diamond's unique hue, and the resulting material is then sculpted to spotlight the star of the show: the diamond.

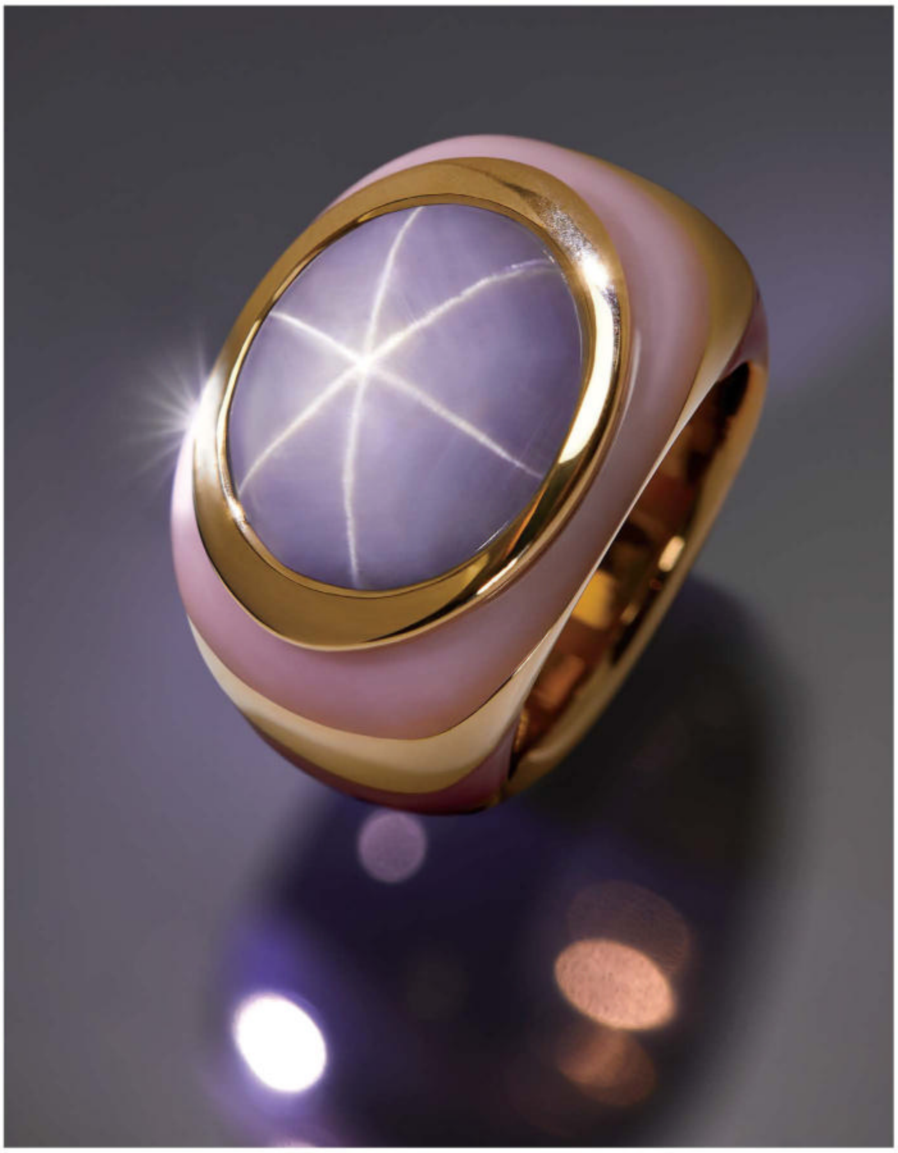
U.S. DEBUT

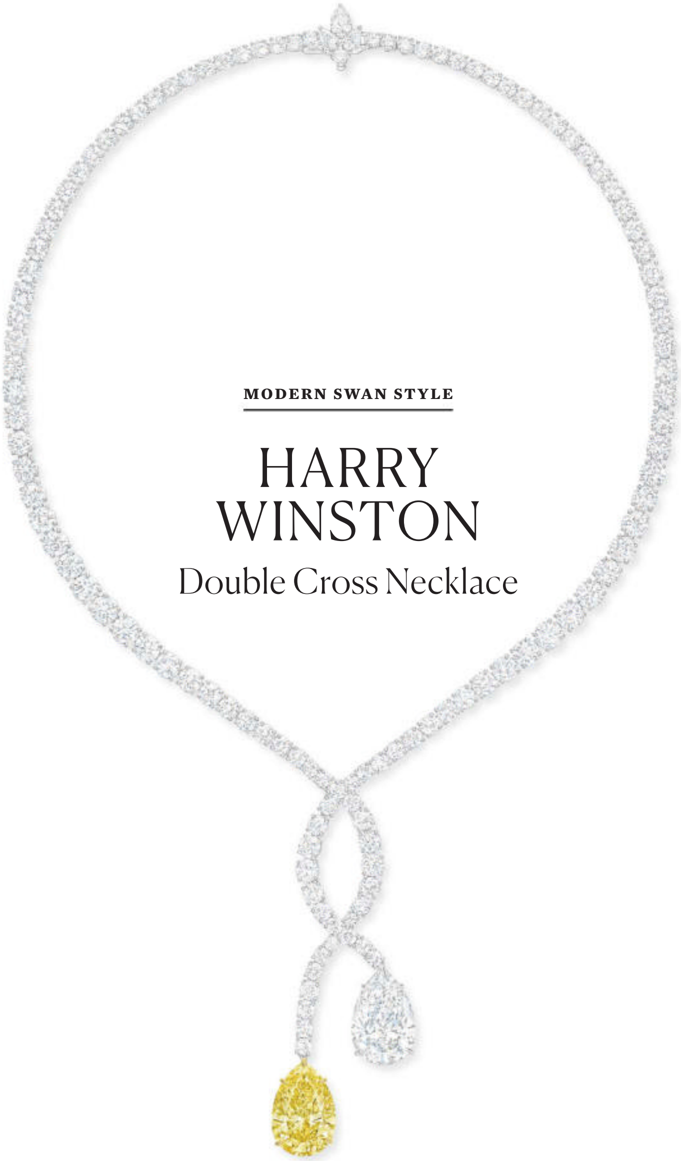
MING

MING LAMPSON has been one of the jewelry world's best-kept secrets. For the past 20 years, she has stuck to what she loves: hunting for unique stones and making them into one-of-a-kind pieces under her eponymous label, Ming, sold exclusively through her intimate shop in London's Notting Hill. But after turning down countless requests from luxury stores, she couldn't resist when Stephen Russell offered to present her work at its Madison Avenue boutique for one week last year. "I was excited for my jewelry to sit alongside vintage Van Cleef & Arpels and Suzanne Belperron pieces," she tells *Robb Report*.

Lampson's designs are driven by her self-described "obsession" with gems. This year's cache of outsize stones includes a mystical star sapphire (seen here), a bright-orange spessartite garnet, and a juicy purplish-pink spinel. She doesn't adhere to a singular style but rather looks to create a unique home for every gem. Trained as a goldsmith, she uses classical techniques and what she calls a "quiet fierceness" to, for instance, cradle a 20-carat spinel in a rose-gold ring with graphic purple ceramic lines or perch a blue sapphire on a ring of gold and royal-blue enamel stripes.

The secret is out.





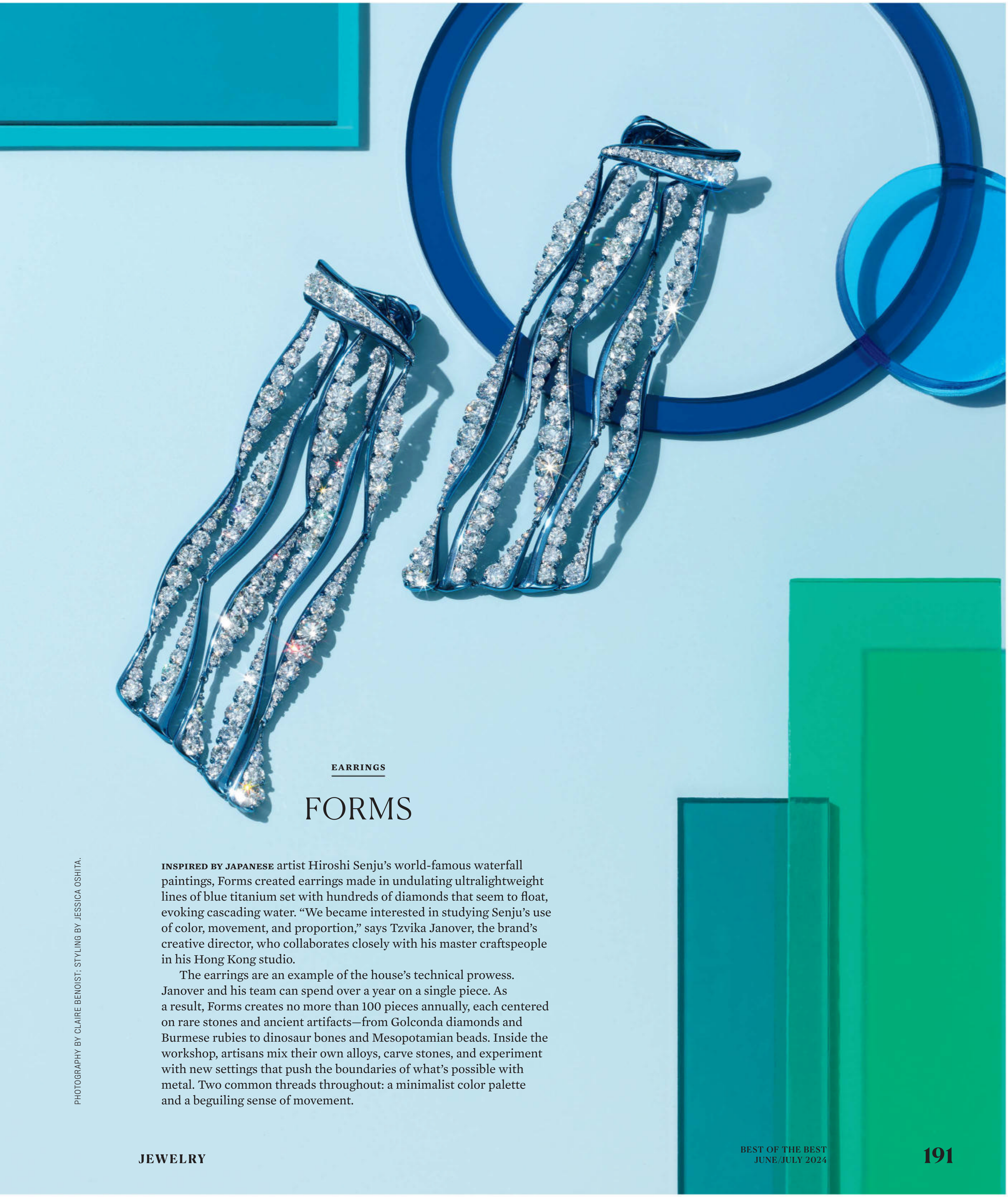
MODERN SWAN STYLE

HARRY WINSTON

Double Cross Necklace

HARRY WINSTON'S new lariat-style diamond necklace recalls chic midcentury icons such as Babe Paley and Slim Keith, whom Truman Capote famously called his "swans." The late socialites are once again in the spotlight thanks to this year's Ryan Murphy–created FX series *Feud: Capote vs. the Swans*, and it's reinvigorating interest in their signature style. Elegant and glamorous, the Double Cross necklace draws attention without overpowering.

To construct it, the house assembled dozens of round diamonds in a seamless platinum necklace with two 10.88-carat pear-shaped diamond drops—a D-flawless white and a fancy vivid yellow. The duo are a reminder of the Indore Pears, a set of famous pear-shaped Golconda diamonds (46 carats each) that the company's namesake founder purchased from the Maharaja of Indore in 1946. Winston sold, repurchased, and sold them again, this time to another royal family, demonstrating how great diamonds live on well beyond their various owners. Capote's swans would have approved.



EARRINGS

FORMS

INSPIRED BY JAPANESE artist Hiroshi Senju's world-famous waterfall paintings, Forms created earrings made in undulating ultralightweight lines of blue titanium set with hundreds of diamonds that seem to float, evoking cascading water. "We became interested in studying Senju's use of color, movement, and proportion," says Tzvika Janover, the brand's creative director, who collaborates closely with his master craftspeople in his Hong Kong studio.

The earrings are an example of the house's technical prowess. Janover and his team can spend over a year on a single piece. As a result, Forms creates no more than 100 pieces annually, each centered on rare stones and ancient artifacts—from Golconda diamonds and Burmese rubies to dinosaur bones and Mesopotamian beads. Inside the workshop, artisans mix their own alloys, carve stones, and experiment with new settings that push the boundaries of what's possible with metal. Two common threads throughout: a minimalist color palette and a beguiling sense of movement.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY CLAIRE BENOIST; STYLING BY JESSICA OSHITA.

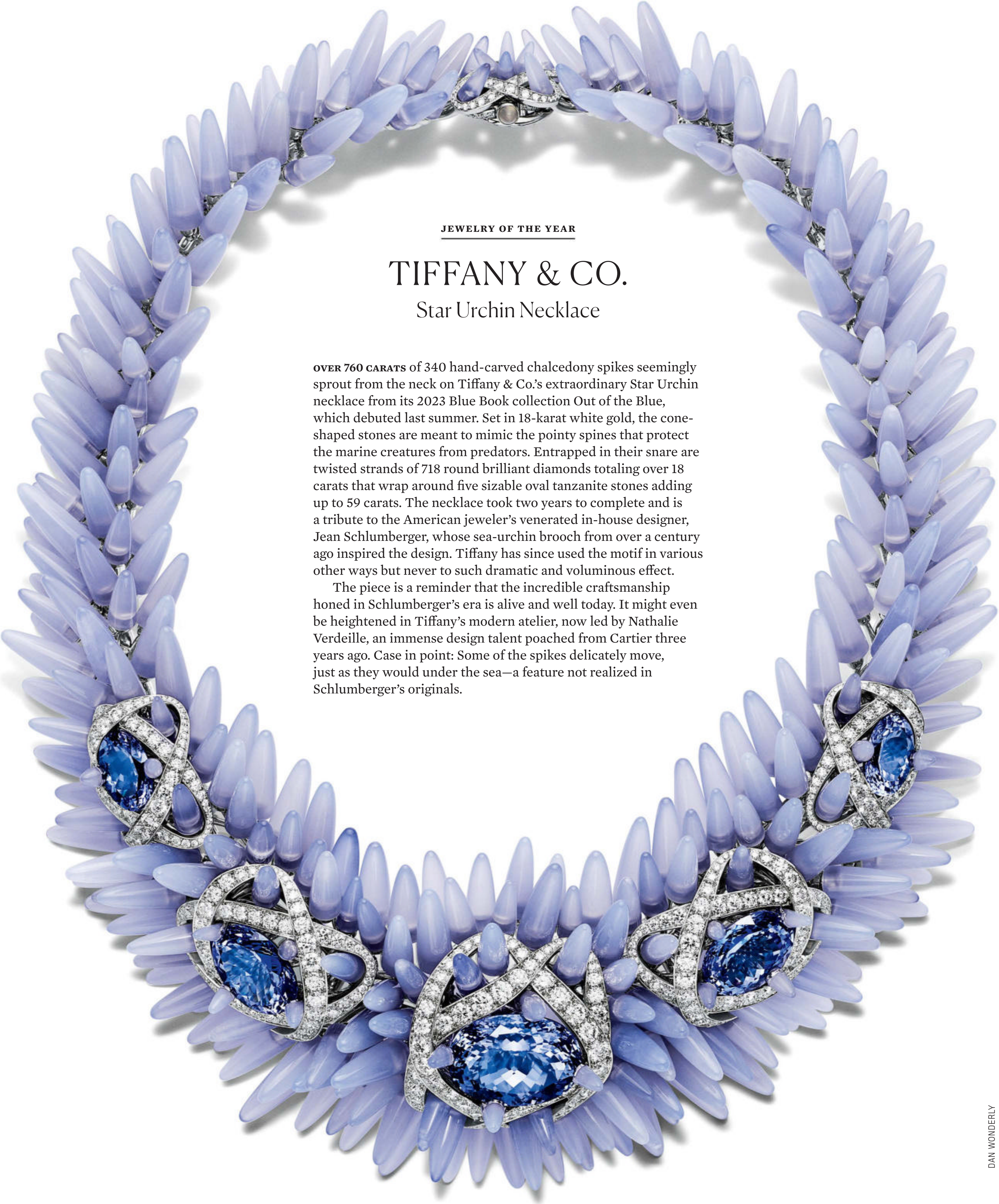
JEWELRY OF THE YEAR

TIFFANY & CO.

Star Urchin Necklace

OVER 760 CARATS of 340 hand-carved chalcedony spikes seemingly sprout from the neck on Tiffany & Co.'s extraordinary Star Urchin necklace from its 2023 Blue Book collection Out of the Blue, which debuted last summer. Set in 18-karat white gold, the cone-shaped stones are meant to mimic the pointy spines that protect the marine creatures from predators. Entrapped in their snare are twisted strands of 718 round brilliant diamonds totaling over 18 carats that wrap around five sizable oval tanzanite stones adding up to 59 carats. The necklace took two years to complete and is a tribute to the American jeweler's venerated in-house designer, Jean Schlumberger, whose sea-urchin brooch from over a century ago inspired the design. Tiffany has since used the motif in various other ways but never to such dramatic and voluminous effect.

The piece is a reminder that the incredible craftsmanship honed in Schlumberger's era is alive and well today. It might even be heightened in Tiffany's modern atelier, now led by Nathalie Verdeille, an immense design talent poached from Cartier three years ago. Case in point: Some of the spikes delicately move, just as they would under the sea—a feature not realized in Schlumberger's originals.



DAN WONDERLY

Monday to Thursday business meetings in **PHOENIX²**,
on Friday a 6-hour executive board meeting at the company's
GLOBAL HQ, and next week the same again, jetting from
one meeting to the next – always **AVANTI**, AVANTI!
And then finally:
Vacations with my family. A week off, just us: my wife
VALERIE and our kids. What a contrast, what an **OASIS**
of peace. Our son **RONIN**, an **ACE** in sports, in the
CORAL OCEAN all day long – windsurfing, wakeboarding,
kitesurfing. Our daughters **AMADEA** and **TITANIA** enjoying
their school holidays on board the spacious yacht, too.
My wife and I, swimming in the main deck's infinity pool, and
later indulging in **A+** quality dining. In the evenings, we'd go
down to the cinema to watch movies, or we'd sit on deck,
looking into the star-lit sky over the **PACIFIC**, just to wake up
the next morning, pampered by the **RISING SUN**'s first warm
beams. Tell you what – the opportunities
to recharge the batteries were simply **LIMITLESS**!

Anything can happen onboard a **LÜRSSEN**:

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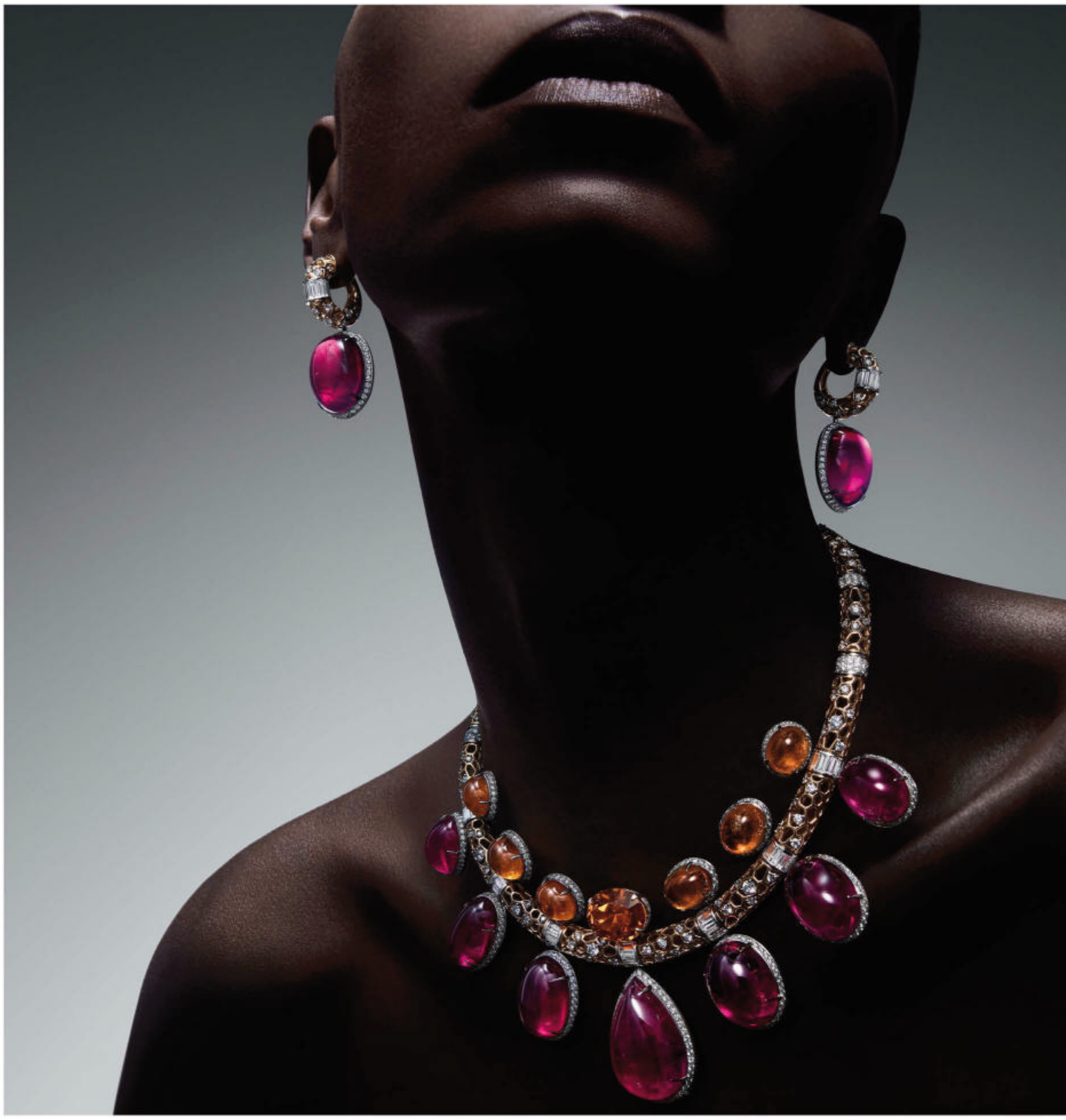
COLOR STORY

LOUIS VUITTON

Seeds Necklace



FLORA AND FAUNA themes are perennial references in high jewelry, so it's refreshing to see Louis Vuitton explore a more granular motif. Francesca Amfitheatrof, artistic director of watches and jewelry at the French house, has gone deeper, looking at the origin of the flowers and plant life that have, for so long, served as inspiration.

Chapter II of the *maison*'s Deep Time high-jewelry collection—its largest to date—zeroes in on everything from DNA molecules to seeds to explore, in gems, the origin of life. Sprouting from the mind of Amfitheatrof, the "seeds" of the necklace seen here take on much larger dimensions than their real-life counterparts: six oval-cut rubellite tourmalines totaling 146.07 carats affixed to the bottom of a hollowed yellow-gold honeycomb-patterned collar set with diamonds. Perched above are six cabochon-cut Mandarin spessartite garnets weighing 57.43 carats, which provide a secondary pop of color. Nestled in the center is a 20.27-carat oval-cut Nigerian spessartite garnet atop a 52.75-carat pear-cut rubellite tourmaline. The piece's use of symmetry, the way the stones are given room to breathe on their own, and its vibrant contrast of colors burst through well-trod territory to create a breath of fresh air.

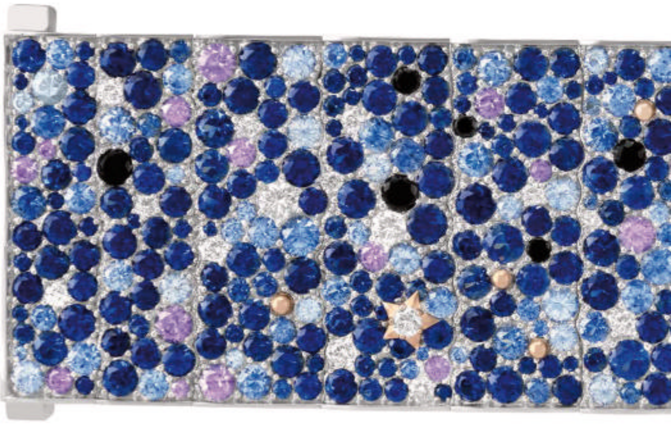
TECHNIQUE

VAN CLEEF & ARPELS

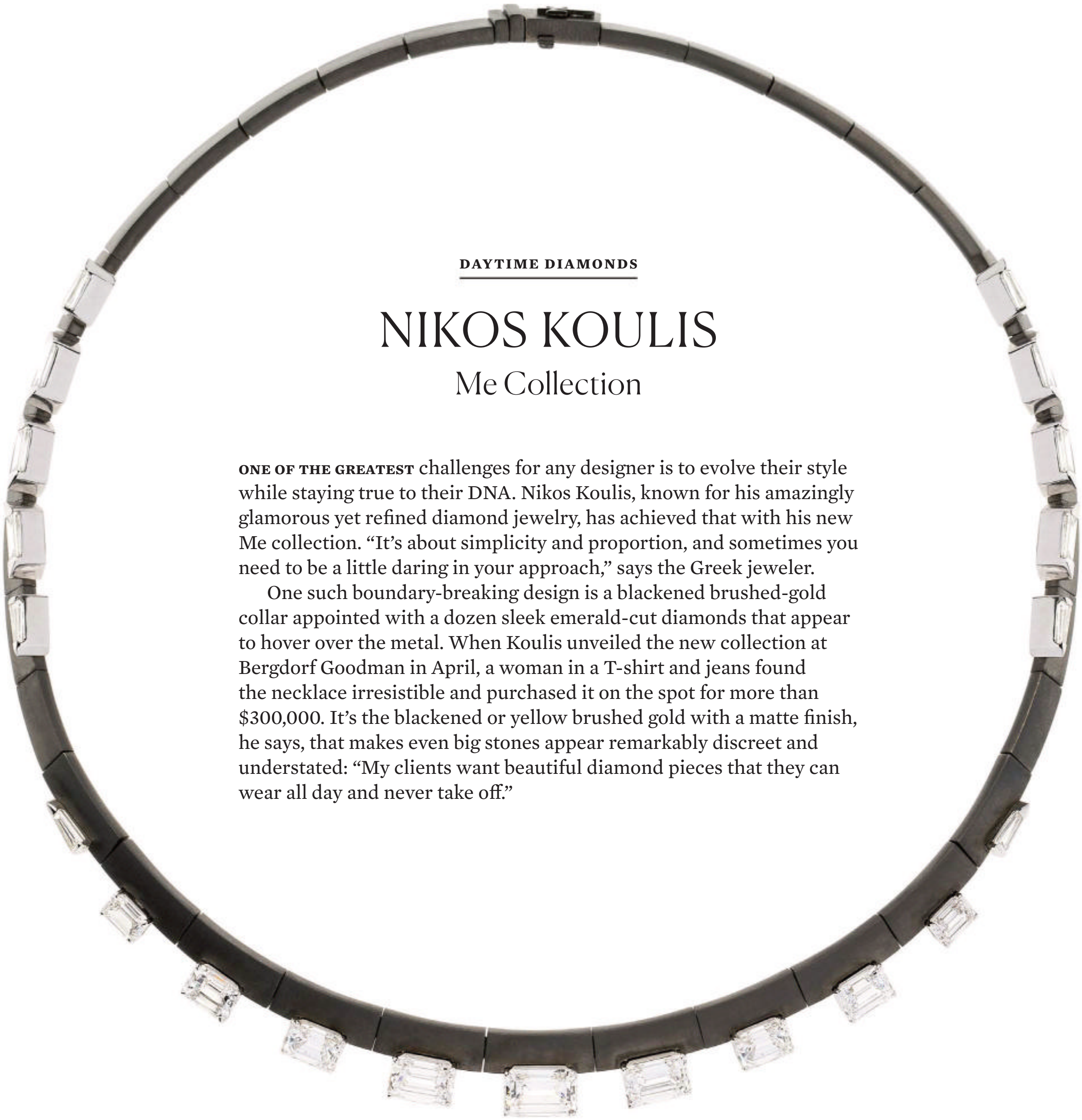
Le Grand Tour Bracelets

VAN CLEEF & ARPELS'S Le Grand Tour bracelets are a master class in jewelry artistry. One exceptional piece portrays Venice's Grand Canal as seen from the windows of the Doge's Palace in a mosaic of hundreds of meticulously shaped sapphires, rubies, tourmalines, tsavorite garnets, and diamonds on an articulated bracelet. The one seen here is inspired by Florence's ancient Duomo, rendered in rose gold shown against an ombré blue and mauve sapphire and diamond sky. To achieve the miniature landscapes, lapidary artists and jewelers spend hundreds of hours precisely cutting the stones and placing them in a painterly way on supple gold bracelets, each a work of art.

This jewelry has its roots in the 1920s, when the French house depicted Egyptian motifs in a series of lavish diamond and gemstone Art Deco bracelets. CEO Nicolas Bos tells *Robb Report* that over the years the house has developed a method that prevents gaps in the landscape image when the bracelet encircles the wrist. "There is a very technical aspect behind the double-hinge system that allows us to keep the elements together," he explains. The bracelets are the ultimate "souvenir"—if you can get your hands on one.



VCA: CLARA GAUDILLERE



DAYTIME DIAMONDS

NIKOS KOULIS

Me Collection

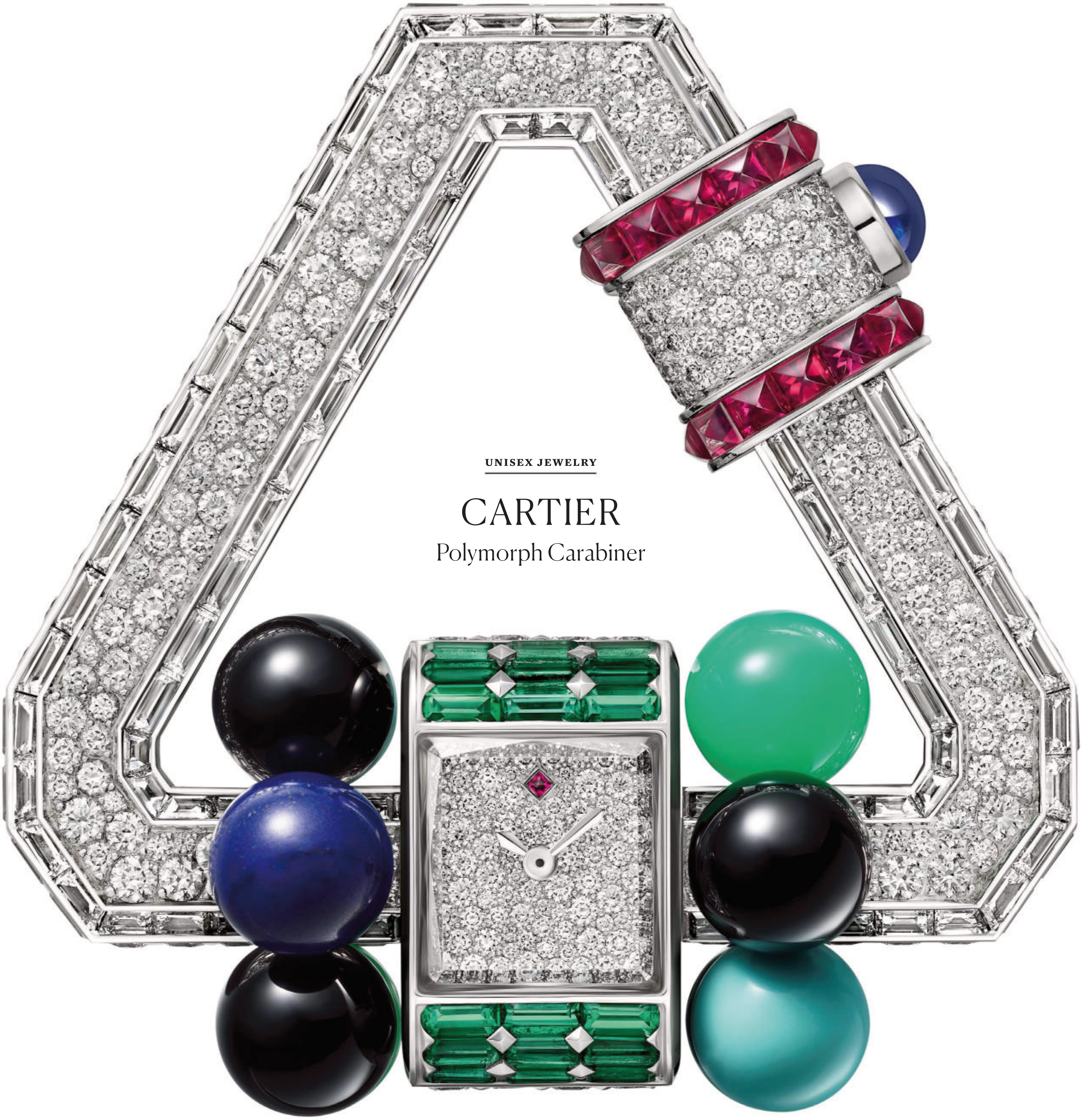
ONE OF THE GREATEST challenges for any designer is to evolve their style while staying true to their DNA. Nikos Koulis, known for his amazingly glamorous yet refined diamond jewelry, has achieved that with his new Me collection. “It’s about simplicity and proportion, and sometimes you need to be a little daring in your approach,” says the Greek jeweler.

One such boundary-breaking design is a blackened brushed-gold collar appointed with a dozen sleek emerald-cut diamonds that appear to hover over the metal. When Koulis unveiled the new collection at Bergdorf Goodman in April, a woman in a T-shirt and jeans found the necklace irresistible and purchased it on the spot for more than $300,000. It’s the blackened or yellow brushed gold with a matte finish, he says, that makes even big stones appear remarkably discreet and understated: “My clients want beautiful diamond pieces that they can wear all day and never take off.”

UNISEX JEWELRY

CARTIER

Polymorph Carabiner



EVERYTHING FROM a funky pair of sunglasses with gems lining the edge of the frames and dripping down the back of the tips to a Panthère-inspired brooch designed as a claw (meant to be worn as though it's pawing at the edge of a lapel) pop up in Cartier's wildly fun Polymorph high-jewelry collection. But the undeniable standout is a curious carabiner—for rock climbing of a different sort. It comes adorned with emeralds, rubies, lapis lazuli, onyx, black spinel, turquoise, chrysoprase, sapphires, and diamonds and doubles as a clock. But it's not for the neck or the wrist—the French *maison* instead proposes it for a belt loop. What could be more casually modern than that?

But while the idea seems thoroughly fresh for a new generation of jewelry wearers of all genders, the hardware motif has been a running theme at the house since Aldo Cipullo introduced the Love bracelet, famous for its screws, in 1969. Since then, everything from bolts to nails has featured in various Cartier designs. A one-of-a-kind high-jewelry tool for the belt loop, however, takes the concept to an entirely new level.

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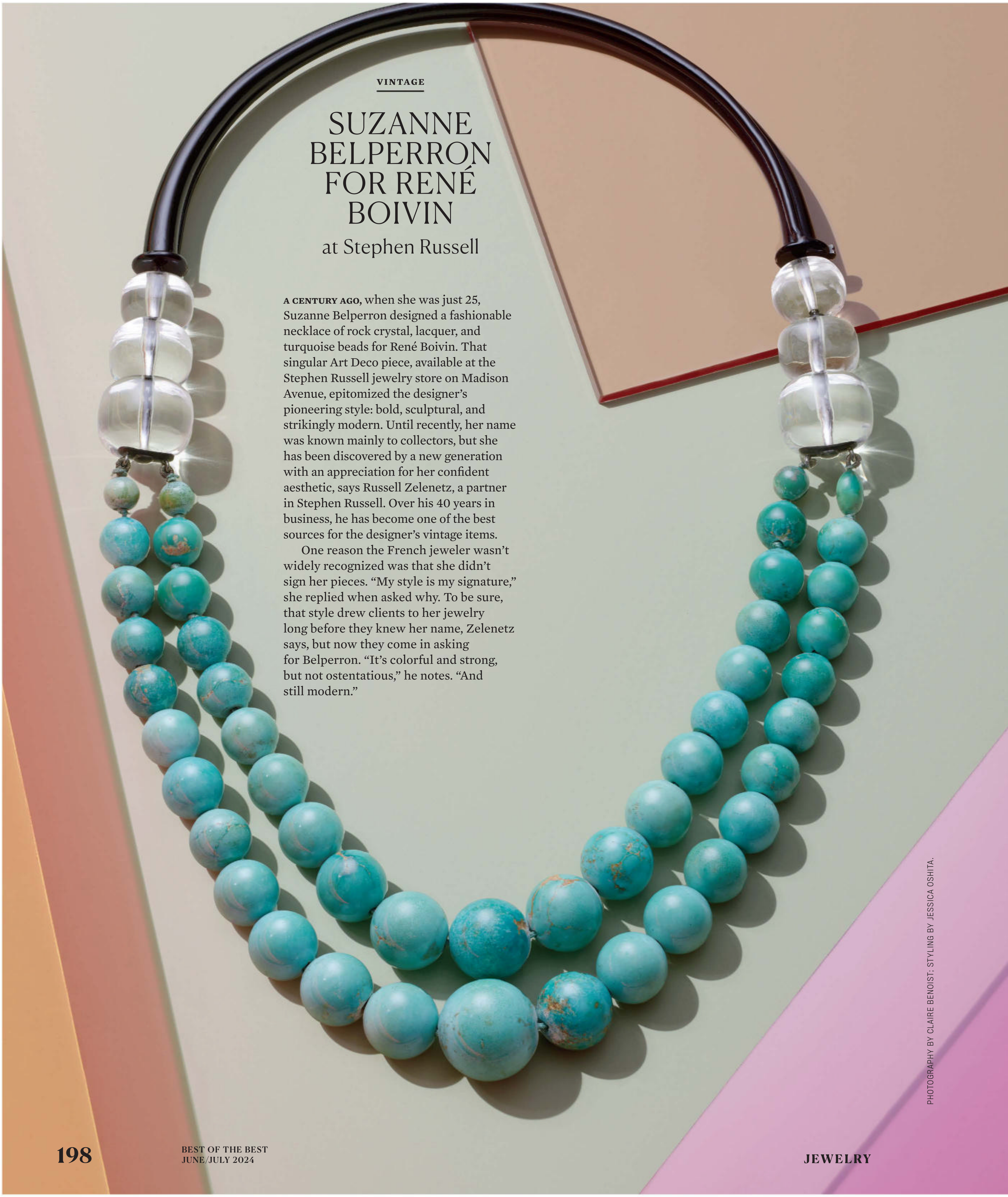

VINTAGE

SUZANNE BELPERRON FOR RENÉ BOIVIN

at Stephen Russell

A CENTURY AGO, when she was just 25, Suzanne Belperron designed a fashionable necklace of rock crystal, lacquer, and turquoise beads for René Boivin. That singular Art Deco piece, available at the Stephen Russell jewelry store on Madison Avenue, epitomized the designer's pioneering style: bold, sculptural, and strikingly modern. Until recently, her name was known mainly to collectors, but she has been discovered by a new generation with an appreciation for her confident aesthetic, says Russell Zelenetz, a partner in Stephen Russell. Over his 40 years in business, he has become one of the best sources for the designer's vintage items.

One reason the French jeweler wasn't widely recognized was that she didn't sign her pieces. "My style is my signature," she replied when asked why. To be sure, that style drew clients to her jewelry long before they knew her name, Zelenetz says, but now they come in asking for Belperron. "It's colorful and strong, but not ostentatious," he notes. "And still modern."

PHOTOGRAPHY BY CLAIRE BENOIST; STYLING BY JESSICA OSHITA.

COCKTAIL RING

LUGANO

Rose-Cut Flower Ring

SOURCING EXQUISITE stones and setting them in high-impact but ultra-wearable designs while also building a relationship-focused business has been a recipe for success at Lugano. As a result, the company has been rapidly expanding. It now has salons in just about all the well-heeled markets, from its headquarters in Newport Beach, Calif., to Aspen to Palm Beach.

At its newest shop, in Greenwich, Conn., which opened its doors in October, sizable diamonds of every color are found in both modern and classic settings. A standout is the 18-karat-white-gold Rose-Cut Flower Ring set with 12.4 carats of rose-cut diamonds and 0.7 carats of round diamonds. It commands attention on the finger and sparkles without being too clunky. And, like all Lugano pieces, it manages to strike a balance between traditional and edgy design that's resonating with clients around the globe. The jeweler opened its first international outpost, in London, at the end of April.

CREATIVE DESIGN

BOUCHERON

More Is More Collection

INSPIRED BY the '80s-era design collective the Memphis Group—known for its wildly graphic and colorful furniture, lighting, fabrics, and more—Boucheron creative director Claire Choisne has proved that high jewelry doesn't have to be stiff. Her latest Carte Blanche (clean slate) collection, an annual series that allows Choisne an anything-goes approach to design, is pure fun. Among her whimsical inventions: A diamond and onyx pocket affixes via ultra-strong magnets and actually creases with your clothing when you sit; it also doubles as a cuff bracelet. Gem-set hoodie tassels are magnetized so they can replace the strings on your everyday cotton go-to, while their tips detach to become earrings. Meanwhile, a necklace set with cubes of diamonds, gray spinels, pink sapphires, and mother-of-pearl is made to evoke your childhood Rubik's cube game.

This is not child's play. The pieces Choisne creates are, in fact, extraordinarily complicated and are made even more challenging to produce by the fact that they've never been done before. Nothing is out of the realm of possibility. She has used a scientific algorithm to create a necklace sprinkled with diamonds in a titanium cloud around the neck and has incorporated aerogel, a material typically employed by NASA and commercial aviation. With her latest jewelry collection, Choisne continues to outdo herself.

BOUCHERON: ROBB RICE

BENETTI'S B.NOW YACHTS ENHANCE BOTH OWNER AND GUEST CONNECTION TO THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT

Benetti's B.Now family is a continuing success story, born out of Italian innovative technology and the shipyard's design insight in collaboration with U.K.-based architects RWD. The first vessel was launched in 2021, with great success globally. B.Now is offered as 50, 60, 67 and 72 meter choices.

Built with a steel hull and an aluminium superstructure, these yachts feature shorter delivery times, a profound relationship with the sea, and remarkable continuity between interior and exterior areas.

Sebastiano Vida, Benetti's head of product, says, "The success of this Benetti's family of yachts has made them a benchmark for an ever-growing segment of owners. This is driven by a new onboard lifestyle, offering unprecedented interaction with the sea. One of the most innovative features is the Oasis Deck, which is available for all B.Now models."

The deck is designed to provide an emotionally engaging way to experience life at sea, with two lateral wings that fold down to enlarge the deck area. Additionally, an infinity pool is perfectly integrated into the deck and surrounded by areas that encourage conviviality. The extensive use of full-height windows and openings connects the Oasis Deck with the yacht's interior and with the surrounding environment, providing owners and guests with a breathtaking 270-degree panorama from multiple areas, including from the main deck salon. The mix of sun and shade lets guests enjoy the experience of total relaxation at any time of day, while the design weaves the entire deck, from the main salon to the sea, into a uniquely social space.

Robb Report BEST OF THE BEST

PAST BEST OF THE BEST HONORS: 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011, 2009, 2008, 2007, 2006, 2004, 2002

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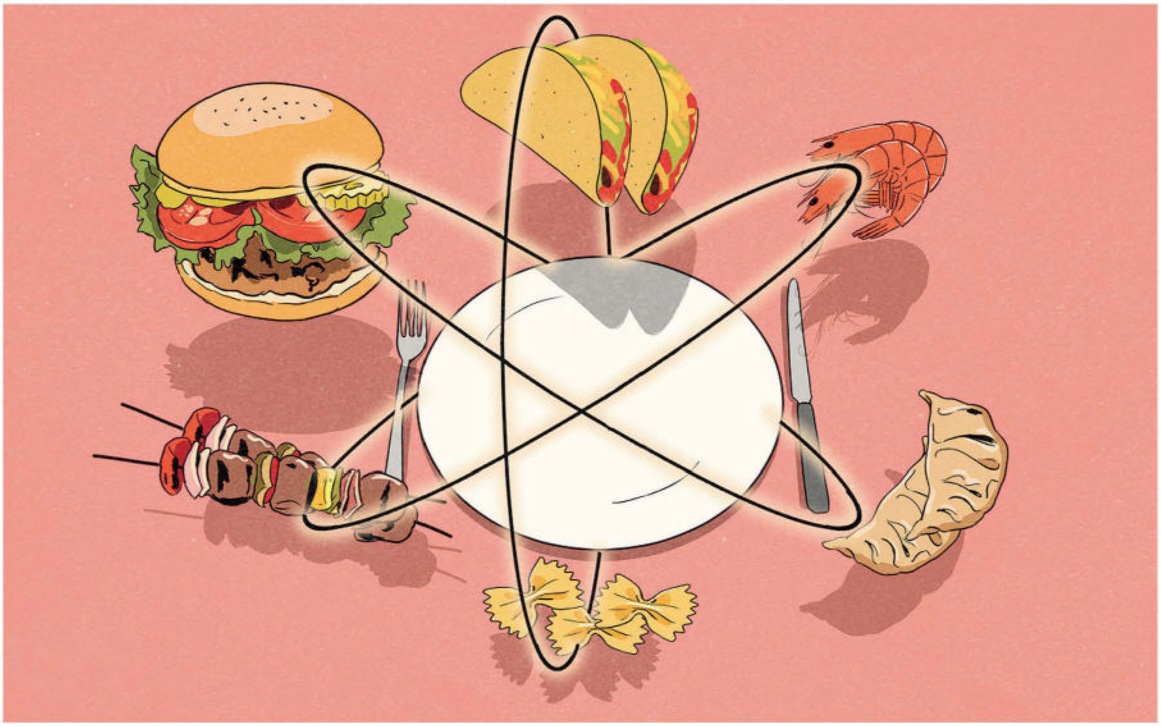
DINING

By Jeremy Repanich



THE BIG IDEA

GENUINELY INAUTHENTIC

CHEF ERLING WU-BOWER, son of a Chinese mother and a Creole father, grew up in Chicago. Chris Jung, executive chef at Wu-Bower's new Chicago restaurant Maxwells Trading, was born in Korea and raised in New York and D.C. To build their menu, they didn't pinpoint a single cuisine from their pasts. Maxwells—No. 3 on our list of best new restaurants in America—serves tortellini that taste like soup dumplings and flatbreads that look like scallion pancakes, which diners use to scoop up hummus. If anything, the cultural mishmash on each plate is unapologetically *inauthentic*.

As we sampled dishes across the country this year, it became clear that the most inventive chefs have stopped chasing the idea of authenticity. Some are even gleefully subverting it. These talented artists are no longer afraid to cross cultural lines, a practice that fell out of fashion around 15 years ago.

Until recently, celebrated restaurants had adhered to a prevailing ethos of verisimilitude. Some, such as Noma or Fäviken, did this by reflecting regionality. Others took pains to faithfully re-create dishes from specific cultures. (See Sean Brock's revivalist Southern food at Husk.) But the label "authentic" also carried a moral weight—it was a signal that the cuisine on offer hadn't been dumbed down, diluted, or thoughtlessly appropriated.

Still, every benchmark has its limitations. A singular truth simply doesn't exist in food. Cuisines evolve alongside people and places; any chef claiming to make *the* real deal is more likely turning out a dish frozen in time, and the rules governing what's right and wrong about a local favorite can differ from household to household. Who determines what's authentic if even neighbors can't agree?

With that in mind, the best chefs are dropping the pretense altogether. Johnny Clark named his Chicago restaurant Anelya after his Ukrainian grandmother, but he's more than willing to break away from the recipes she handed down to him. Chef Angie Mar of N.Y.C.'s Le B. serves a salad Chinoise wholly unlike the one Wolfgang Puck made famous—but his had little to do with China, anyway. And at Nashville's Bad Idea, Colby Rasavong makes the Laotian food he ate growing up using fine-dining techniques. His scallop-stuffed crepe resembles the classic Lyonnais quenelles de brochet, but with a fish-sauce funk and heat from Thai chilis that a French chef wouldn't even think of adding.

Culinary traditions are worth celebrating, of course. But so is the wave of creativity we're currently riding thanks to those willing to be "inauthentic."

ILLUSTRATION BY Emmanuel Polanco

10

ATOMA

Seattle

AFTER COOKING AT Seattle fine-dining institution Canlis, chef Johnny Courtney has set up his first solo venture with his wife, Sarah, in a converted house in the Emerald City's Wallingford neighborhood. The menu isn't exactly meat-free, but Courtney finds ways to turn vegetables into stars. Begin with the rosette, a subtle nod to the city's Scandinavian heritage: Turn the crispy fried cookie over and you'll find a Walla Walla onion jam piped into its cavity, making for a salty-sweet opener to the meal. When squash was in season, the restaurant served it three ways (fried, roasted, and pickled) and topped with a pepita salsa macha. And the schnitzel forgoes pork, instead using thick slices of lion's mane mushroom that are breaded, fried, and topped with a celery-root remoulade accented with crunchy fennel. It's a style of haute cuisine that's comforting, creative, and relaxed.

9

ARRAY 36

Temple City, Calif.

AFTER PASSAGE OF the Immigration and Nationality Act in 1965, an influx of immigrants from China settled in Southern California's San Gabriel Valley. This suburban expanse east of L.A. has since become a rich vein of Chinese dining destinations, where you'll find everything from dumplings to imperial-court cuisine. Array 36 added a fine-dining experience that eagerly leans into opulence. Take the Peking duck, which is wheeled into the dining room hanging from a dragon sculpture, doused in baijiu, and then set ablaze tableside with a butane torch.

The extensive menu pulls inspiration from China's regional cooking styles, including a delightful Shanghainese crab-roe and tofu stew and Sichuan-style beef short ribs. But the standout is hong shao rou, or red pork, beloved by Mao Zedong. This glistening, jiggling, sticky, salty, sweet pile of braised pork belly is coated in a mix of rice wine, sugar, and light and dark soy sauces. If the pyrotechnics of the duck get you in the door, this pork will keep you coming back.

8

BURDELL

Oakland, Calif.

BURDELL FEELS LESS like a restaurant and more like a home. Not *your* home, exactly, but it evokes the feeling of walking into someone's grandparents' house, complete with lovingly preserved rattan furniture and Bill Withers songs wafting through the air alongside the aroma of fish being fried.

The food is just as welcoming and comforting. Chef Geoff Davis imbues soul-food classics with a California influence. Chicken and waffles is served with a rich liver mousse and topped with bits of crispy skin that offer a salty textural contrast. A cornmeal-crusted fried Petrale sole, perched atop red beans, is covered with a celery-root remoulade that's studded with Dungeness crab to give it a touch of luxury.

The barbecue shrimp is a revelation. One side is sautéed hard to add a charred flavor, while the other side is cooked gently. The sauce has a subtle, persistent heat playing in the background—more like a bassoon than a blaring trombone. You'll want even more of the buttery sliced brioche to sop it all up.

ARRAY 36: WONHO FRANK LEE

7

BRASERO

Chicago

CHEF JOHN MANION was born in Michigan but spent his formative years in Brazil, and that country's food has been close to his heart ever since. At Brasero, he's reconnecting with favorite dishes and flavors by way of the massive wood-fired hearth that anchors the kitchen.

Start with one of the bar's excellent caipirinhas and then move on to the pão de queijo, little puffs of cheesy bread, served with papaya jam. There are ample starters to choose from, including prawns swimming in a green curry, fried quail with yuca, or pork ribs with a guava barbecue sauce. Manion is also behind El Che, the Windy City's beloved Argentine steak house, so there are plenty of carnivorous delights here. But it pays to go surf and turf: Order the grilled Wagyu picanha with chimichurri and pair it with half a lobster that's kissed by the fire and topped with miso-chili-garlic butter.

LE B.: WILLIAM HEREFORD

6

LE B.

New York City

FOR THE PAST DECADE, the New York restaurants that wanted to hark back to a bygone era have channeled midcentury vibes. But at Le B., in the West Village, chef Angie Mar is expressing her love of the 1980s and '90s. Which means filet mignon, French onion dip, and a subtle reference to a salad Wolfgang Puck helped make famous—all of it done with Mar's keen eye for glamour.

The menu reflects Mar's longtime obsession with French cuisine, but she allows her own personal history to influence her dishes in subtle yet exciting ways. In her lobster blanquette, shellfish mingle in a sea of indulgent, umami-rich sauce: beurre blanc flavored with soy and shiro dashi to give it uncommon depth. And her Chinese chicken salad isn't like what you'd get at Puck's Chinois on Main or the mall restaurants that served it for decades. There isn't even meat in it. Instead, Mar serves a tuile made with chicken fat over bitter greens with a sesame-yuzu vinaigrette.

5

IGGY'S

Nashville

RYAN POLI HAS cooked in some of the world's great restaurants, from French Laundry to Noma in Japan. For a time his prodigious skills made him a globe-trotting knife for hire, until a few years ago when he decided to put down roots and finally open a joint that was truly his own. At Iggy's, he has partnered with his brother, Matthew, who runs the dining room while he commands the kitchen.

They call Iggy's inventive Italian, but the restaurant is really a showcase for outstanding handmade pasta. The vibe is relaxed, but the flavors have a precision that betray Poli's years in fine dining. The black truffles that adorn the agnolotti in a Parmesan-butter sauce aren't some theater of opulence shaved in front of you: The kitchen carefully portions and places the pungent fungus to control how it perfumes the dish. Hunks of tender and sweet braised beef short rib intermingle with pillows of gnocchi and sauce with a resonant depth of flavor that gets a gentle lift from torn mint leaves. There aren't entrées per se, just noodle dishes with varying levels of meat, so the best strategy is to dine with friends and order everything on the menu.

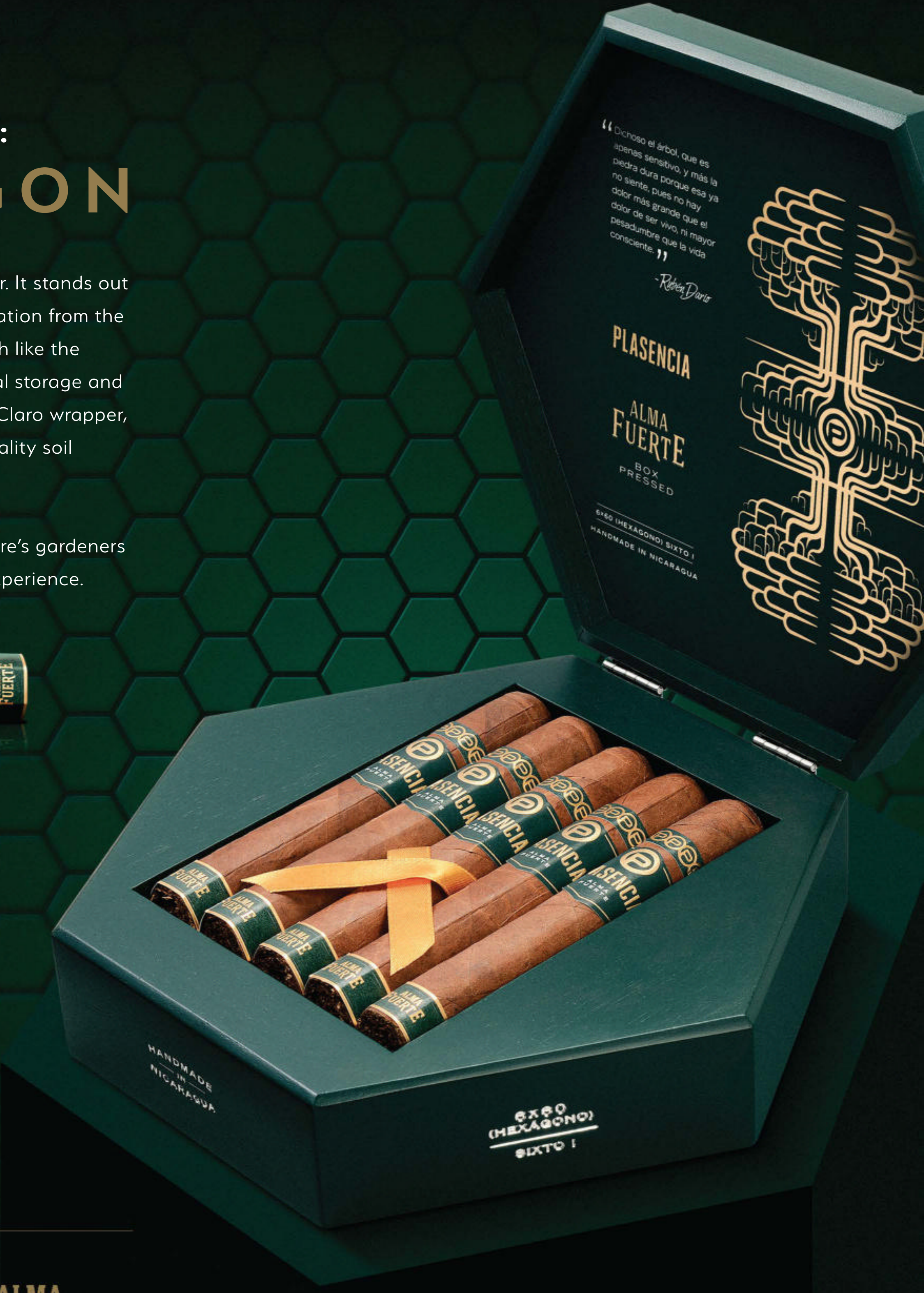
INSPIRED BY NATURE:

THE HEXAGON

Plasencia **Alma Fuerte Sixto I** isn't just any cigar. It stands out with its unique hexagonal shape, drawing inspiration from the design of honeycomb cells crafted by bees. Much like the honeycomb, this natural shape allows for optimal storage and preservation of flavors. Wrapped in a Colorado Claro wrapper, the blend of aged tobaccos cultivated in top-quality soil results in a bold flavor profile.

This cigar pays homage to the ingenuity of nature's gardeners while delivering a rich and satisfying smoking experience.

PLASENCIA
ALMA FUERTE


"Dichoso el árbol, que es apenas sensitivo, y más la piedra dura porque esa ya no siente, pues no hay dolor más grande que el dolor de ser vivo, ni mayor pesadumbre que la vida consciente."
-Rubén Darío
PLASENCIA
ALMA FUERTE
BOX PRESSED
6x60 (HEXAGONO) SIXTO I
HANDMADE IN NICARAGUA
HANDMADE IN NICARAGUA
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4

KATAMI

Houston

CHEF MANABU HORIUCHI'S strip-mall grill, Kata Robata, has developed a loyal following of industry peers and diners alike over the past 15 years. At Katami, Horiuchi occupies a much posher environment and serves up the high-end Japanese fare to match. He has spared no expense in presenting the finest ingredients, from Ohmi A5 Wagyu beef to fish flown in directly from Tokyo's Toyosu market.

While the extensive menu is offered à la carte, it's best to sit at the bar for omakase. Horiuchi and his buzzing band of chefs put out exquisite delicacies, such as a square of simple house-made goma tofu in soy sauce; Japanese sardine nigiri with kombu, ginger, and green onion; and a green-tea kakigori made with ice imported from Kanazawa, Japan. His knack for elevating some of the best raw materials with world-class technique is on full display.

MAXWELLS TRADING: JEFF MARINI

3

MAXWELLS TRADING

Chicago

ON A WEEKNIGHT, the stretch of Chicago's West Loop where Maxwells Trading resides can feel desolate, but inside, chef Erling Wu-Bower's restaurant hums with energy. He and executive chef Chris Jung have cultivated an ambiance as playful as the menu. The duo combine Asian flavors and techniques from around the world, with little regard for authenticity. Pork soup dumplings arrive in the form of tortellini. An array of dips is served with bread that's like a cross between naan and a scallion pancake. There's even a Japanese suzuki tartare with Thai influences in the crunch of peanut and the gentle funk of fish sauce. The margarita isn't really a margarita, but more of a riff with papaya and ancho-chili honey thrown in the mix. And yet, nothing feels gimmicky or strained because deliciousness takes precedence over being creative for creativity's sake.

But save room, because Maxwells's Basque butter cake is one of the best desserts we had anywhere in the country. The little golden column sits atop a light miso caramel, and its crisp exterior gives way to a pillowy interior. A topping of apple confit and rosemary imparts a savory dimension that makes this treat dynamic and irresistible.

2

7 ADAMS

San Francisco

AFTER WALKING AWAY from their Michelin-starred restaurant Marlena due to a dispute with ownership, chefs David Fisher and Serena Chow Fisher are back—on their own terms. At 7 Adams, they're serving a delightful five-course tasting menu in the dining room and an eight- to 10-course experience at the chef's counter.

The restaurant is rooted in California cuisine, highlighting local, seasonal ingredients with influences from Japan and Western Europe. For the standard menu, there are milk-bread rolls, a crudo, a vegetable course, a choice of pastas, a selection of mains, and a pair of Chow Fisher's excellent desserts to consider. A recent trip featured a hiramasa crudo served with Shinko pear and a gently spicy Fresno chili and yuzu kosho vinaigrette. The pasta round showcased a celery-root ravioli with pesto, capers, and garlicky Parmesan sauce. But the chefs appreciate the power of surprise—and served up one in the form of a deboned Buffalo wing stuffed with sausage and slathered in a Frank's Red Hot–based sauce, proving fine dining can be fun, creative, and unfussy.

7 ADAMS: TARA RUDOLPH

1

RESTAURANT YUU

Brooklyn

THE CURTAIN OPENS, the lights go up, and a row of cooks inside a kitchen is revealed. Chef Yuu Shimano steps forward and welcomes the 18 diners seated at the counter to his restaurant, and with a clap of his hands the team members scramble to their positions for the show to begin. This little gesture could come off as pretentious or annoying, but it's just the right amount of whimsy for the night ahead at Restaurant Yuu, which performs at an extremely high level but also seems to be having fun with fine dining.

Shimano was born in Osaka and cut his teeth in French kitchens, including a stint at Paris's Michelin three-starred Guy Savoy. His theatrical culinary experience serves French fare with a Japanese influence. Diners are introduced to the headliner at the very beginning of the meal, when a giant loaf of raw pastry is presented. Duck and foie gras are inside the pie, which heads to the oven so that it's ready in time to be served as the final savory course.

In the two hours before it returns, a parade of delightful dishes is presented, from an oyster and Wagyu tartare to a langoustine gently grilled over binchotan to impart a bitter flavor of smoke. At one point, a grinning cook strolls by with a comically large loaf of bread before slicing portions for everyone. And then the star returns. The duck-and–foie gras pie, by now, is cooked to perfection. It's a traditional treat, but also a novel way to finish the meal. That's what Restaurant Yuu does best: breathe new life into old forms.

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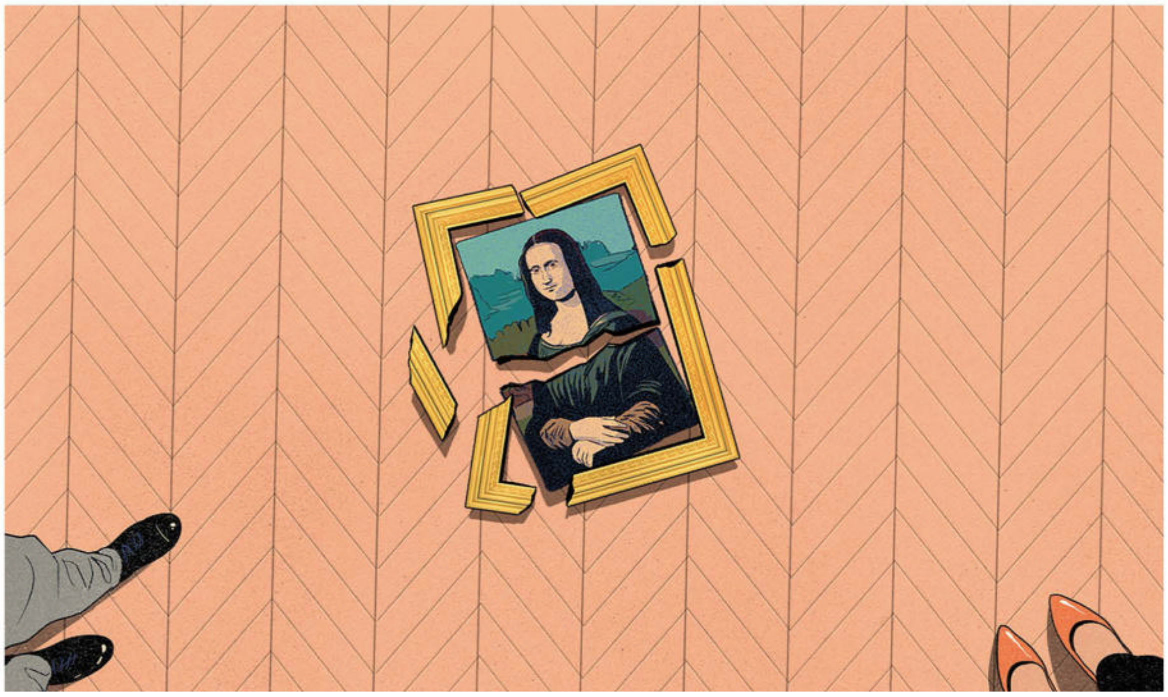
ART

By Julie Belcove



THE BIG IDEA

AN ART WORLD DIVIDED

BEFORE OCTOBER 7, the contemporary-art world tended to be seen as a reliably liberal bloc, with shared values around issues of social justice including race, gender, and reproductive rights. But Hamas's attack on Israel that day and Israel's subsequent invasion of Gaza have divided artists, gallerists, curators, and other art professionals in an unprecedented manner.

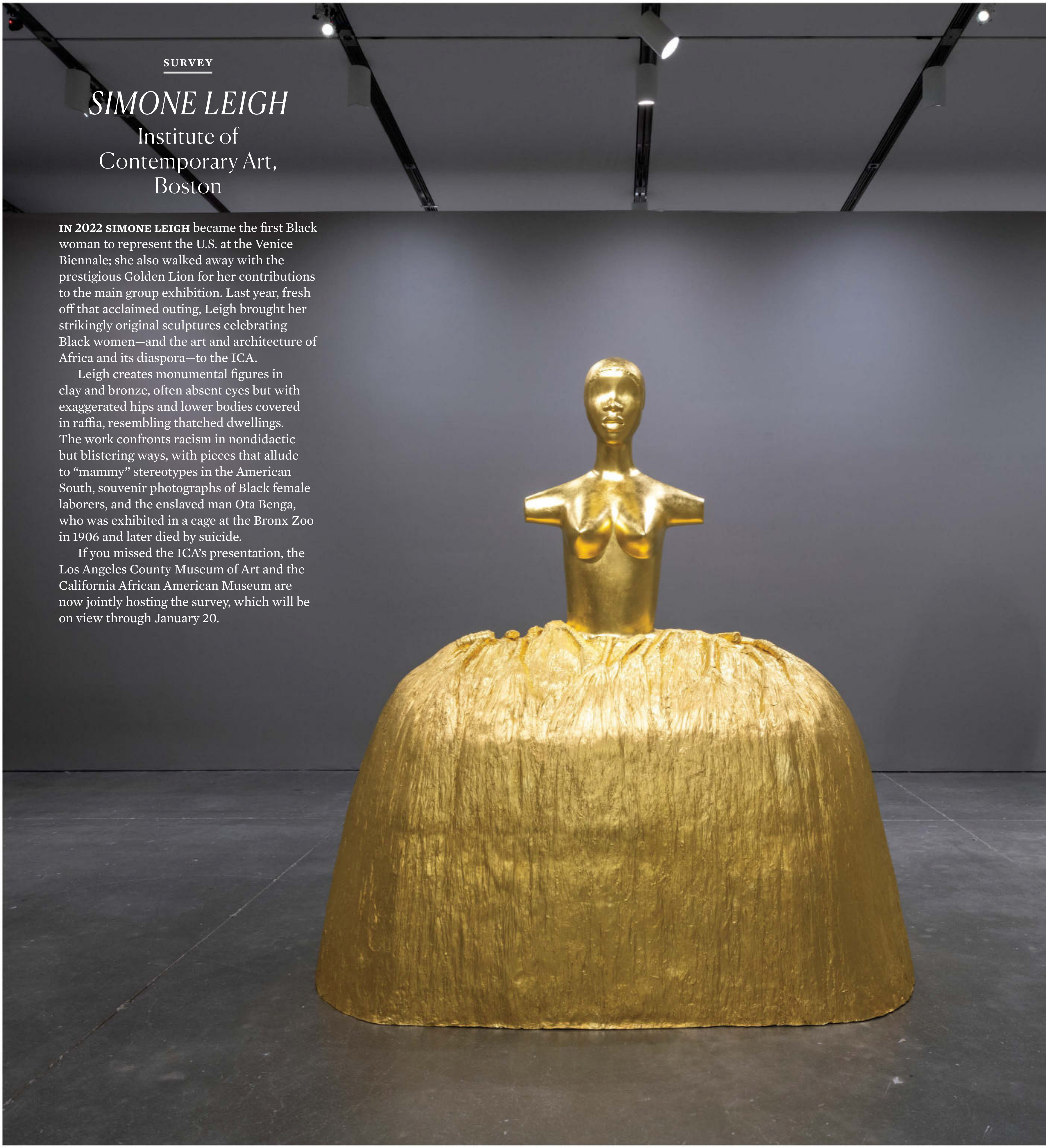
Across the art world, people traded accusations of anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, and censorship. Pro-Palestinian protests erupted at numerous institutions, including the Museum of Modern Art and the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. Talks were disrupted; artists pulled works from shows. In one case, a group of Jewish anti-Zionist artists withdrew their pieces from San Francisco's Contemporary Jewish Museum, in part to protest funding from the Israeli government and pro-Zionist foundations. Another museum in that city, the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, closed for several weeks after nine of the 30 artists in its triennial spray-painted pro-Palestinian messages onto their own works and demanded that any supporters of Zionism be removed from the board. The interim CEO, who is Jewish, resigned, citing fears for her safety.

Private institutions have also become targets. New York's Neue Galerie, founded by Ronald Lauder, president of the World Jewish Congress, was splashed with red paint, as was Pace Gallery, which was tagged with slogans such as "Free Gaza." Its opening reception for an exhibition by Israeli artist Michal Rovner was disrupted by protesters. A group of small galleries on the Lower East Side were plastered with posters printed with slogans such as "Stop selling to Zionists."

On the flip side, museums have canceled or delayed exhibitions by artists who have been critical of Israel. Indiana University's Eskenazi Museum of Art called off the respected Palestinian American abstract painter Samia Halaby's retrospective at nearly the last minute after she labeled Israel's bombings genocide. The prominent philosopher and gender theorist Judith Butler withdrew from a lecture series at the Centre Pompidou after detractors accused her of anti-Semitism for describing the October 7 attacks as "an act of armed resistance" rather than as terrorism.

The turmoil has reached far beyond the U.S. Germany has been convulsed with uncharacteristic criticism of its longtime support of Israel, and Ruth Patir, the artist representing Israel at the Venice Biennale, has refused to open her country's pavilion until there is an agreement for both a ceasefire and the return of Israeli hostages. The discord is loud and pronounced, the pain searing. The question left for those from every corner to resolve: How will the art world heal itself?

ILLUSTRATION BY Emmanuel Polanco



SURVEY

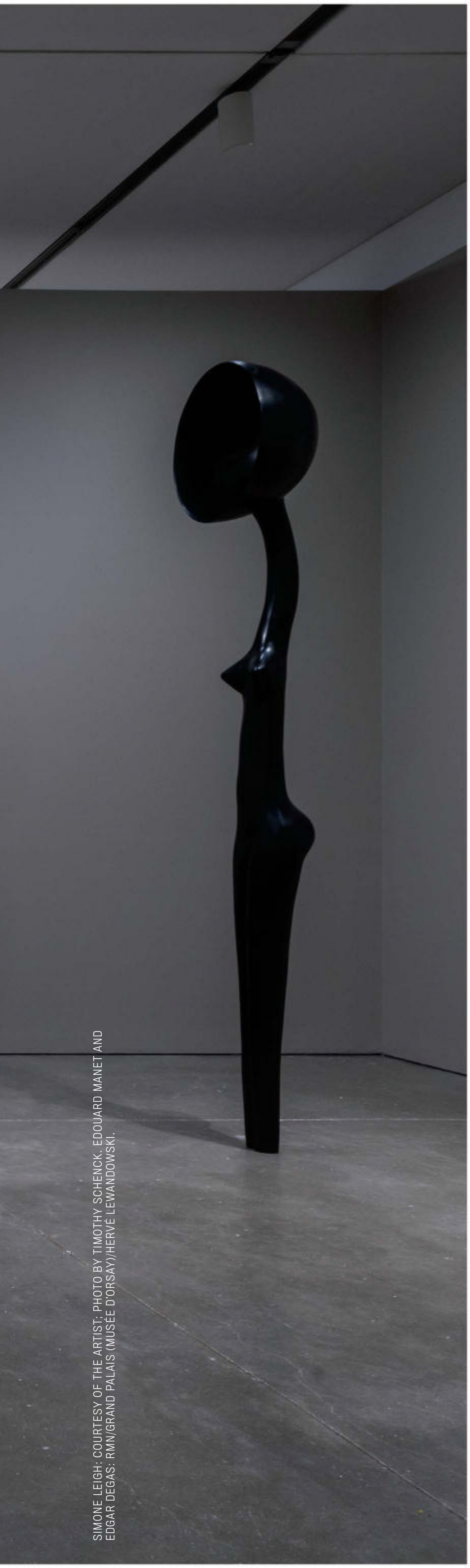
SIMONE LEIGH

Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston

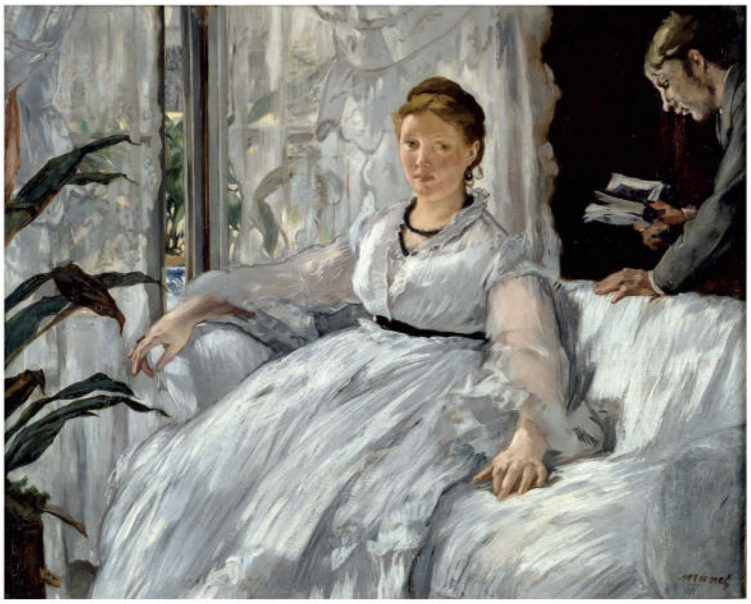
IN 2022 SIMONE LEIGH became the first Black woman to represent the U.S. at the Venice Biennale; she also walked away with the prestigious Golden Lion for her contributions to the main group exhibition. Last year, fresh off that acclaimed outing, Leigh brought her strikingly original sculptures celebrating Black women—and the art and architecture of Africa and its diaspora—to the ICA.

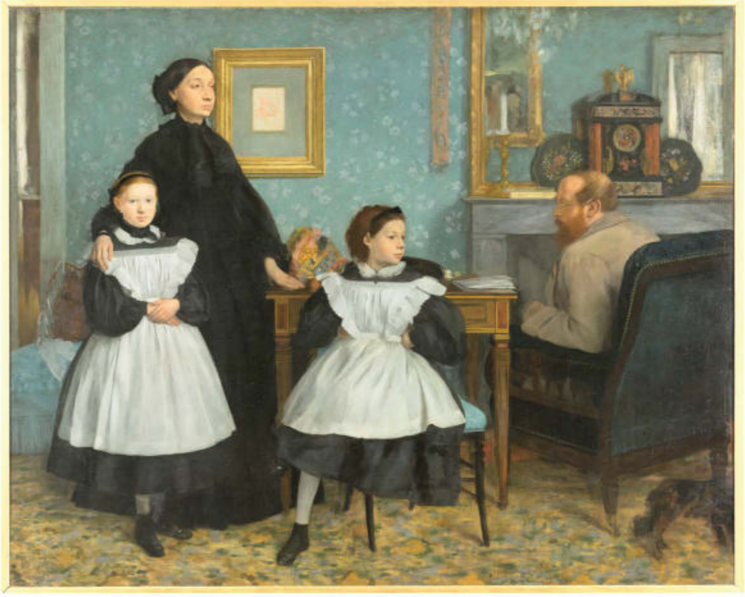
Leigh creates monumental figures in clay and bronze, often absent eyes but with exaggerated hips and lower bodies covered in raffia, resembling thatched dwellings. The work confronts racism in nondidactic but blistering ways, with pieces that allude to “mammy” stereotypes in the American South, souvenir photographs of Black female laborers, and the enslaved man Ota Benga, who was exhibited in a cage at the Bronx Zoo in 1906 and later died by suicide.

If you missed the ICA’s presentation, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art and the California African American Museum are now jointly hosting the survey, which will be on view through January 20.



SIMONE LEIGH: COURTESY OF THE ARTIST; PHOTO BY TIMOTHY SCHENCK. EDOUARD MANET AND EDGAR DEGAS: RMN/GRAND PALAIS (MUSÉE D'ORSAY)/HERVÉ LEWANDOWSKI.





LEFT: **Simone Leigh, *Cupboard,* 2022, bronze and gold, and *Sentinel IV*, 2020, bronze, at the Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston.** RIGHT, FROM TOP: **Edouard Manet, *La Lecture,* between 1848 and 1883, oil on canvas; Edgar Degas, *Portrait de famille,* between 1858 and 1869, oil on canvas.**

BLOCKBUSTER

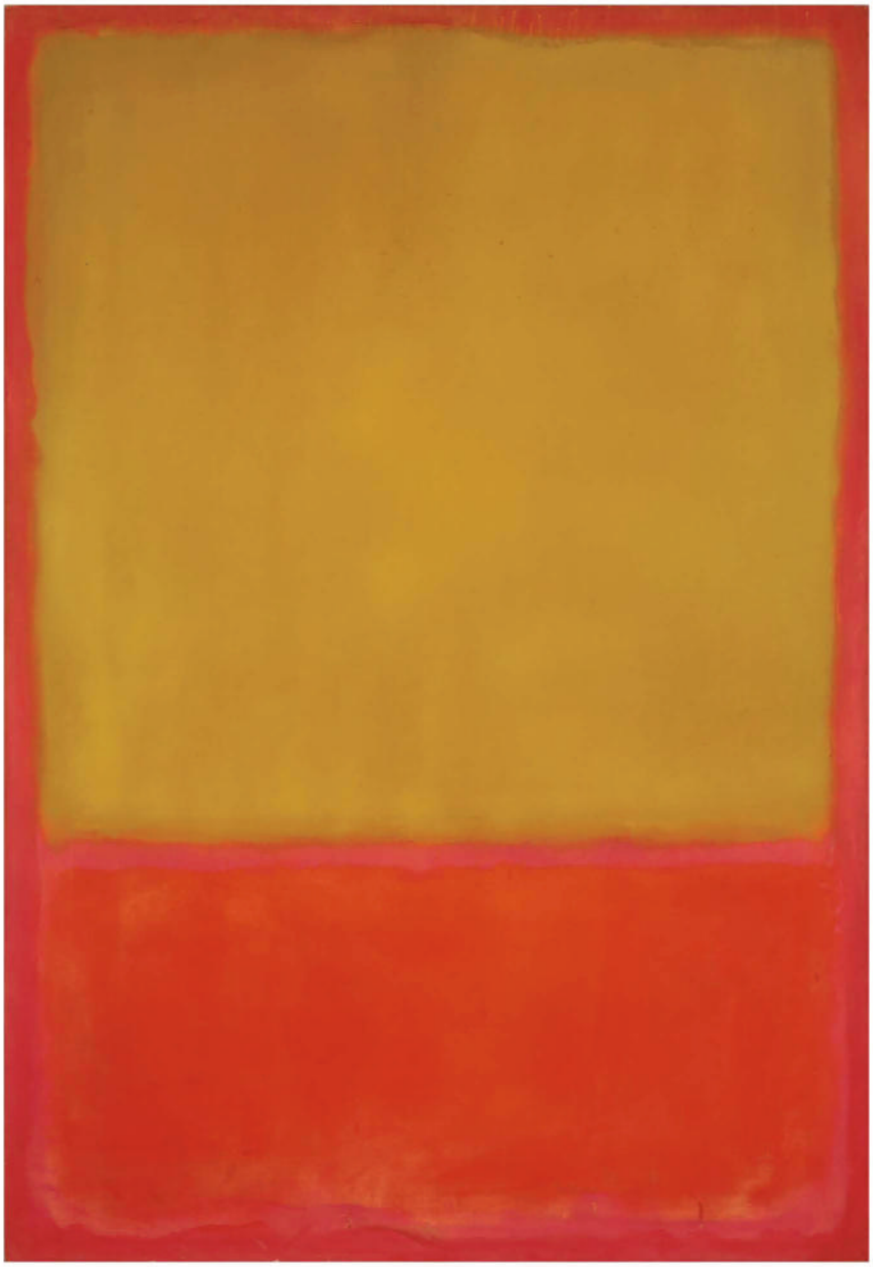
MANET/DEGAS

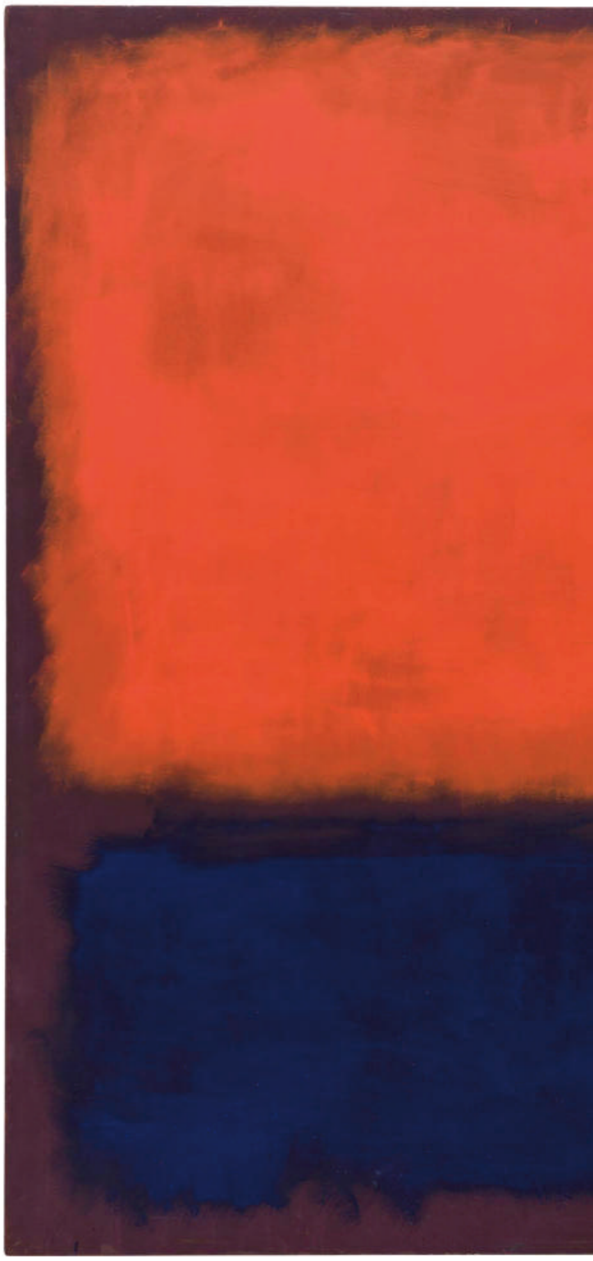
Musée d'Orsay

EVEN ON A normal day, the Musée d'Orsay's trove of works by Manet and Degas is an embarrassment of riches. (It was telling to stroll through the museum's galleries and take in the paintings the curators didn't bother to include in the special exhibition, among them Manet's *Le Déjeuner sur l'herbe.*) But more than its jaw-dropping assembly of masterpieces—here Manet's *The Balcony,* there Degas's *A Cotton Office in New Orleans*—this deep dive into two giants of the 19th century offered an intimate view of a close friendship and subsequent rift that would help shape the history of art.

The pair met at the Louvre (admiring a Velázquez, no less) and struck up the kind of rapport that only peers can. On parallel paths, they painted modern life: bourgeois families, outings at the beach, millinery shops, drunks—and most consequently, female nudes. The source of their falling-out remains a mystery, though the fact that Manet slashed a portrait of himself and his wife that Degas had given him leaves tantalizing room for speculation. But if any question remains regarding Degas's opinion of his rival, consider his actions after Manet's premature death at age 51 in 1883: He became one of Manet's most active collectors, eventually acquiring almost 80 works.

In the fall, *Manet/Degas* alighted at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, giving stateside viewers an unprecedented chance to see Manet's audacious *Olympia*—arguably the canvas that ushered in modernism—in the flesh, so to speak.





RETROSPECTIVE

MARK ROTHKO

Fondation Louis Vuitton

THIS MAJOR ROTHKO retrospective was well worth what was clearly a heavy lift on the part of the Parisian museum: Besotted critics rightly called it "spellbinding," "monumental," and "stunning." Beginning with his early, representational paintings of the 1930s, continuing through his flirtation with surrealism in the 1940s, and climaxing with his mature, abstract expressionist period, Fondation Louis Vuitton's presentation captured this singular artist's creative development in 115 works displayed over four floors.

Most viewers, no doubt, came to see his luminous canvases awash in gently stacked swaths of reds and blues, yellows and oranges, pinks and purples and blacks—the essential pieces one could easily get lost in. The museum succeeded in borrowing nine Rothkos donated to London's Tate Gallery by the artist and normally displayed in a special room there; the deep-red paintings were originally planned for the Four Seasons restaurant in Ludwig Mies van der Rohe's Seagram Building in Manhattan, but Rothko reneged on the commission. New York's loss, London's gain.

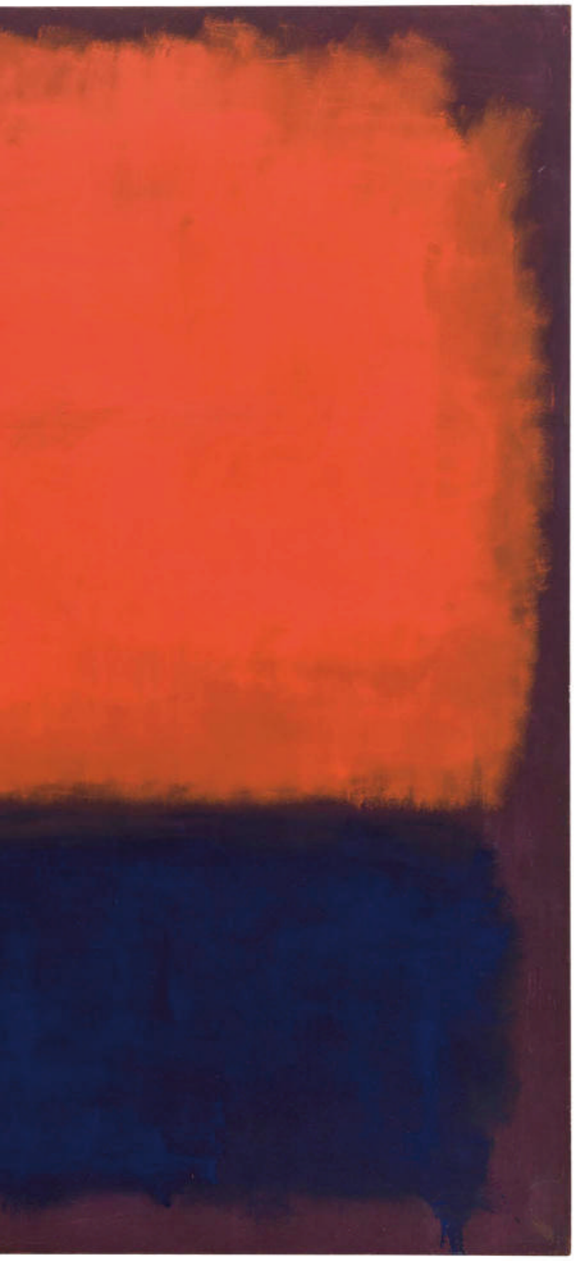
HISTORICAL EXHIBITION

THE HARLEM RENAISSANCE AND TRANSATLANTIC MODERNISM

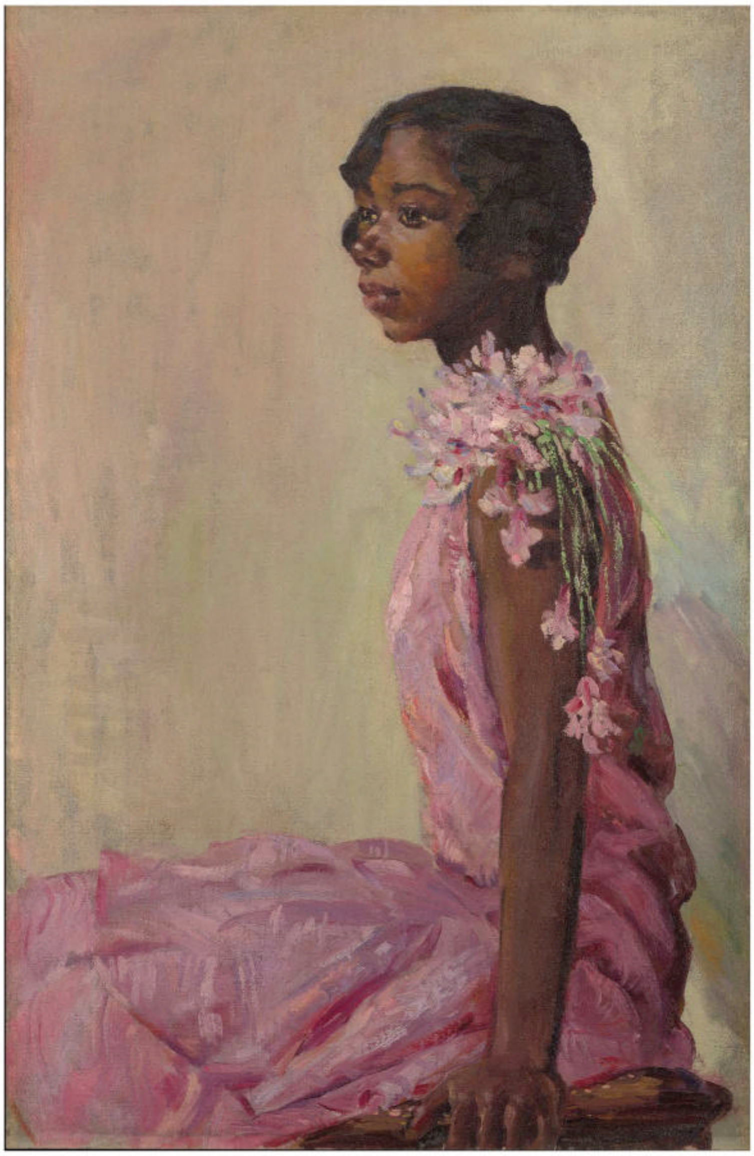
Metropolitan Museum of Art

THE FLOWERING OF MUSIC, literature, and fine art from the 1920s to the ’40s in New York and other American cities during the early days of the Great Migration is well-documented, with Billie Holiday, Louis Armstrong, Langston Hughes, Nella Larsen, Archibald Motley, and Laura Wheeler Waring among the scores of talents who defined a generation with their inventive approaches to Black self-expression. With this show, the Met has finally given the era its due: Curator Denise Murrell advances the narrative by making a strong case for the artists as major players in—not just acolytes of—the modern-art movement that was sweeping the globe.

You have until July 28 to catch Motley’s expressionist canvases capturing Black joy, Waring’s elegant portraits, and William H. Johnson’s bright, flattened depictions of vibrant urban life, among the more than 160 paintings, sculptures, drawings, photographs, and archival materials on display.



FROM FAR LEFT: **Mark Rothko, *The Ochre (Ochre, Red on Red),* 1954, and *No. 14,* 1960, both oil on canvas.** RIGHT: **Laura Wheeler Waring, *Girl in pink dress,* oil on canvas, ca. 1927.**



MARK ROTHKO: KATE ROTHKO PRIZEL & CHRISTOPHER ROTHKO/ADAGP, PARIS.
LAURA WHEELER WARING: COURTESY OF THE MET.

ANNIVERSARY SHOW

ELLSWORTH KELLY AT 100

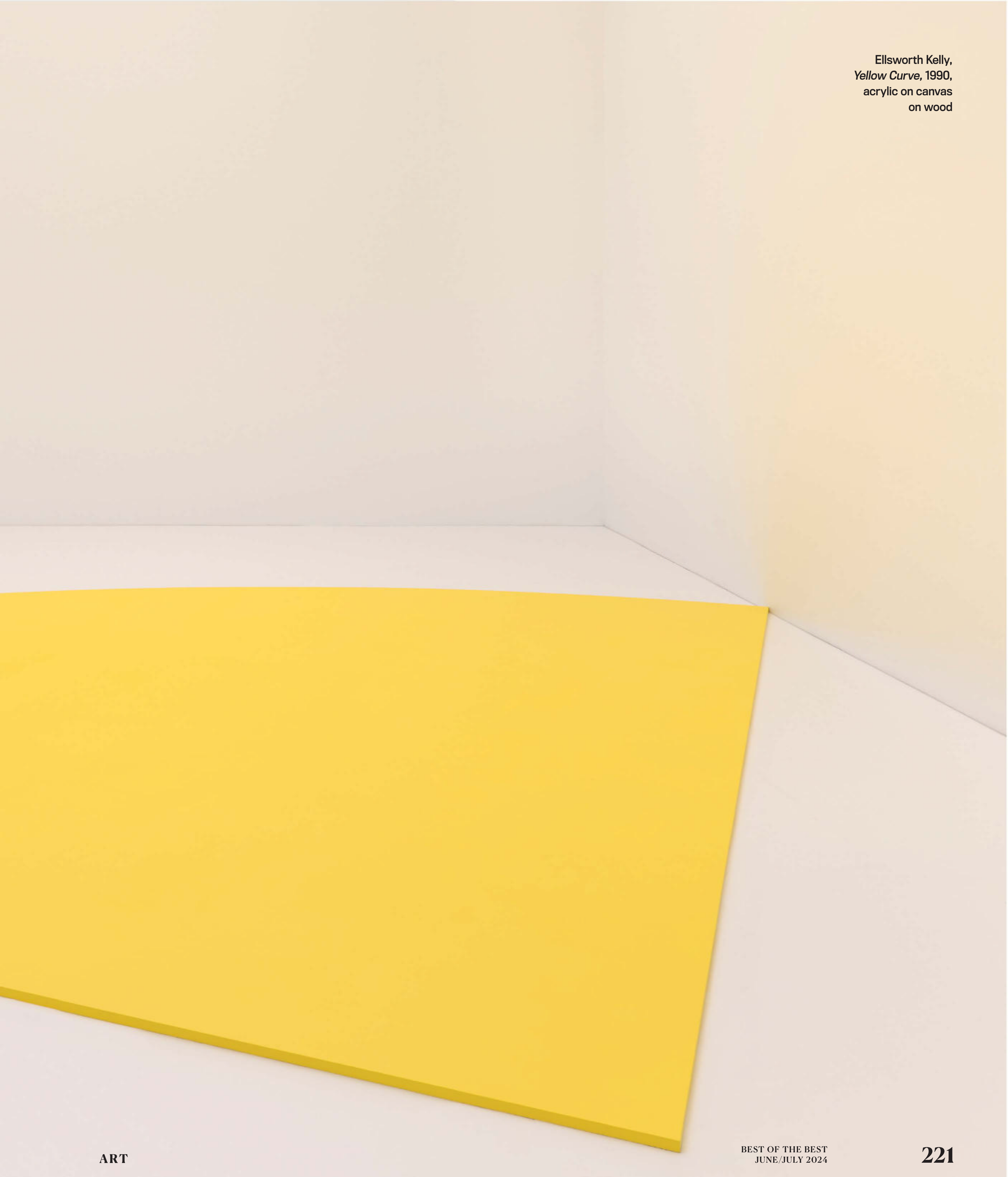
Glenstone

ELLSWORTH KELLY, the difficult-to-categorize artist famed for his large, shaped canvases painted in brilliant monochromes, would have turned 100 last year. To mark the milestone, Glenstone, the private museum exquisitely situated on the sprawling Maryland estate of its founders, Mitch Rales and Emily Wei Rales, put on quite the centenary celebration.

The couple, longtime friends and collectors of the artist, who died in 2015, filled the galleries with Kelly's curved paintings and totemic sculptures as well as his sublime plant drawings, inspired by daily walks in the countryside around his house in Spencertown, N.Y. Also on view were some of his less-exhibited black-and-white photographs—the slant of a roof, the slope of a snow-covered hill, a signpost and its shadow, a half-boarded window—which offer an intriguing glimpse into how he translated the world around him into his sharply defined, geometric abstractions.

The retrospective, Glenstone's first traveling exhibition, is on view at Fondation Louis Vuitton in Paris through September 9.

ELLSWORTH KELLY FOUNDATION. PHOTO BY RON AMSTUTZ. COURTESY OF THE GLENSTONE MUSEUM



Ellsworth Kelly,
Yellow Curve, 1990,
acrylic on canvas
on wood

A Watershed Moment for Antique Oriental Rugs

Don't look now, but a high-art collectible with a compelling history of significance and appreciation—at least from a selective audience of in-the-know connoisseurs—is poised for its long-awaited breakout. If you're caught unaware, chances are you've not previously considered the intrinsic beauty (nor the perceived value) of antique Oriental rugs from the early to late 19th century. Additionally, you may not realize that such woven masterpieces are growing scarcer each year.

For three decades beginning in the 1980s, high-level, 19th century examples of Persian weaving could regularly be found in auction catalogs from the major houses—Christie's and Sotheby's—not to mention in major metropolitan galleries around the world. Today, almost all of those galleries have closed, while sales hosted by leading auction houses are practically devoid of any significant pieces in very good condition. It's not for lack of interest. Far fewer pieces are being offered for sale publicly.

Except the singular January 21, 2024 Grogan & Company auction held in Boston. Presenting more than 230 lots, the antique tribal rug collection of the late Ralph Kaffel, president of Fantasy Records, elicited an unbelievable 97% sell-through rate—underscoring the substantial interest in top-tier rugs that exists in this collecting niche. Sixty-six percent of the pieces were woven earlier than 1875, the period where rugs of great rarity can be found. Forty-eight percent sold above estimate to bidders from 23 countries. Those attentive to the market of art-caliber rugs are seeing that it's sidling toward a noteworthy tipping point.

As the supply of first-rate 19th century antique rugs has almost disappeared, there is recognition that this artistic tradition is on the verge of finally breaking through the fine art 'glass ceiling.' The reason why high-end antique rugs have been vastly under recognized, most rug critics agree, is connected to their utilitarian nature that has prevented a large percentage of the Euro-American art-collecting world from perceiving them as true artistic creations. A certain blurring occurs between art and something decorative that goes on the floor. It's like an invisible barrier in the mind that affects what people consider fine art. But this is changing as serious art collectors are seeking out the artistic works that stem from the vicinity along the Silk Route and Africa.

Still in remarkably good condition after 150 years, this Persian Tabriz carpet augments a majestic living room.

The market has also been bolstered by a growing contingent of collectors who have been drawn to antique rugs for their mesmerizing beauty and investment potential. They see the rugs they acquire as tangible assets, precious objects that they can surround themselves with and enjoy while they increase in rarity.

Jan David Winitz, the president of the Claremont Rug Company (www.claremontrug.com; 800-441-1332)—a past Robb Report's Best of the Best award-winning gallery—recognized the compelling nature of these rugs more than four decades ago. Pivoting from his chosen career in education, he founded his antique rug gallery in California's San Francisco Bay Area in 1980. For decades, Winitz has proclaimed the finest antique rugs as "undiscovered art." Today, he describes them as "barely discovered."

Winitz methodically built his Oakland-based gallery into the premiere source of art-level 19th century rugs, anticipating early on the scarcity of elite examples that is evident today. Three generations earlier, Winitz's family were successful antique dealers in Odessa, so he was familiar with stories of works of great artistic traditions disappearing. He knew that by the turn of the 20th century, commercialization had eviscerated the unique artistic expression of the genre, in lieu of market preferences and modern production methods. He imagined the future when all the premier 19th century carpets that predated these restrictions had been bought up, admitting, "In the '80s, it was hard to believe it could happen, but I knew there was a finite supply. It was just a matter of time."

With this looming supply issue in mind, Winitz cultivated a robust network of rug-collecting families in the United States and Europe from whom he acquired groups of fine carpets resulting in Claremont's specialization in offering artistically mature, rare examples that attracted a highly discriminating clientele who wanted the best. In time, his network of collecting families provided opportunities to acquire entire collections that had remained privately owned for multiple generations, sometimes including extremely rare pieces not seen on the market for a century or more. For example, in 2023, Winitz acquired a collection of nearly 250 first-rate rugs from a Michigan family, elevating the gallery's high-collectible inventory to a level he never envisioned.

Just as Claremont's inventory has expanded, so too has its clients' collections. Many of Winitz's ongoing customers are now acquiring enough rugs to decorate their entire homes—laying them on floors, of course, but also displaying them on walls and draping them over furniture, regularly rotating the pieces with those they held in storage. A growing percentage of Claremont's clients also store part of their collections in the gallery's climate-controlled vault. Others even install their own residential rug vaults, complete with showroom lighting and wet bars.

Over the years, Claremont's clientele has also broadened geographically. In the beginning, Winitz sold rugs primarily to affluent US clients. Now, through the reach of its expansive website and referrals, the gallery is serving a world-wide clientele who live in more than 40 countries across six continents. More recently, Claremont added customers from Norway to Australia, as well as China, Singapore, and Malaysia. Claremont is even selling rare antique rugs back to connoisseurs in the Middle East.

While Winitz shifted his professional focus to antique rugs more than 40 years ago, his desire to educate never waned. Fifteen years ago, he created the "Oriental Rug Market Pyramid", a popular tool for potential buyers that ranks every rug into one of six levels from "Decorative" to "Museum-Quality." There's no shortage of additional educational material on the gallery's website. Add Claremont's commitment to free domestic shipping on approval and a long-term exchange policy, and it's easy to understand how and why Claremont's clients have become serious, impassioned collectors.

Winitz always sensed that more and more people would come to discover the beauty and personal inspiration of this luxurious art form. "The whole Eastern world has a belief that everything in life has a certain rhythm, a certain balance and harmony," he explains. "That's what the great weavers of the 19th century were expressing. Looking at an art-caliber rug brings us closer to seeing there is a level of balance and harmony in ourselves."

Winitz shares a story of one client who, years ago, was struggling through a difficult period in his life. As that client was trying to weather professional anxieties and sort through marital issues, he returned home one evening, stretched out on the couch in his home office, and admired the antique rugs on display all around him. "They really did speak to me," he explained. "They told me life is okay. This is temporary. Everything is in order."

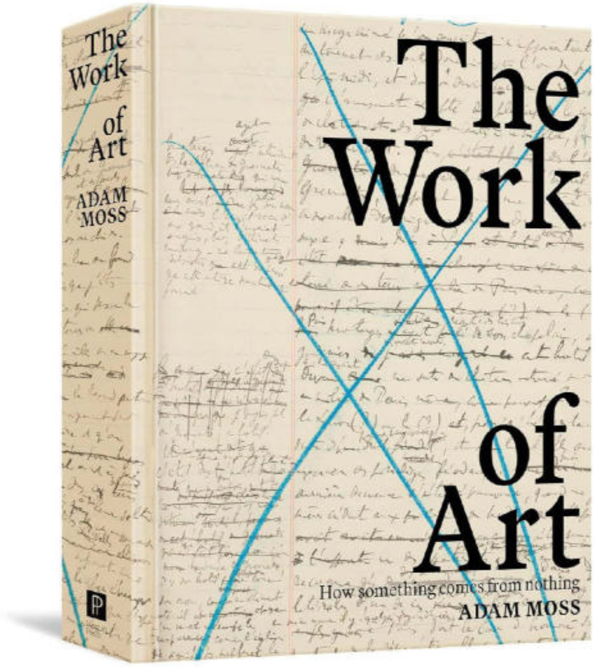
"We are seeing great enthusiasm among our clients, whether they are building 50-piece collections, over 100-piece collections, or substantially larger ones," Winitz says. "Sharing the appreciation of this art form with our clients and assisting in their search for inspiring pieces to live with is a tremendously gratifying endeavor."

Shaun Tolson, *Claremont Rug Company Contributing Writer.*

Discover Claremont Rug Company

Below left: Jan David Winitz, President & Founder, Claremont Rug Company

Below: A favorite style among collectors, this 170-year-old Bakshaish room-size piece epitomizes the spontaneous character they adore.



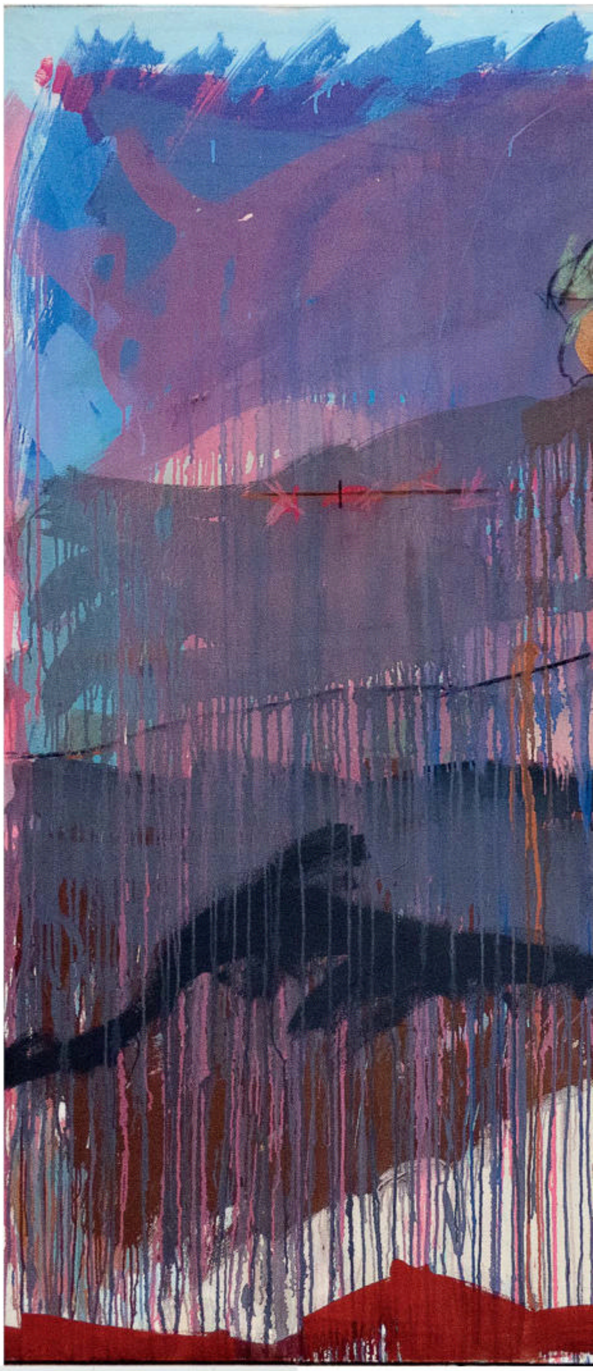
BOOK

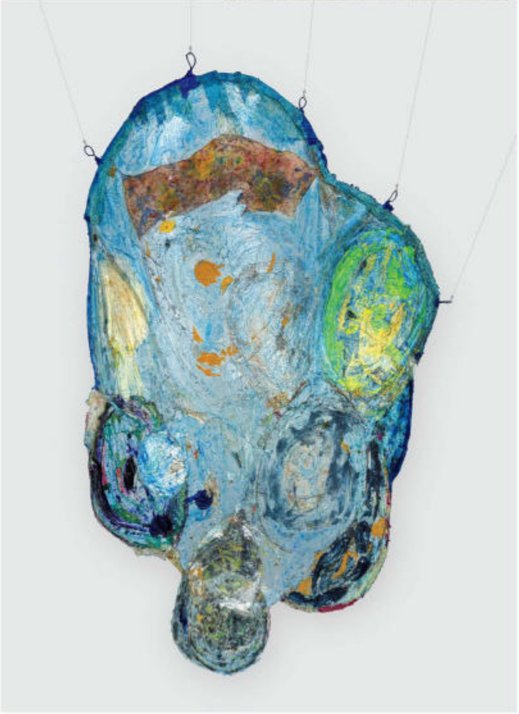
THE WORK OF ART: HOW SOMETHING COMES FROM NOTHING

by Adam Moss

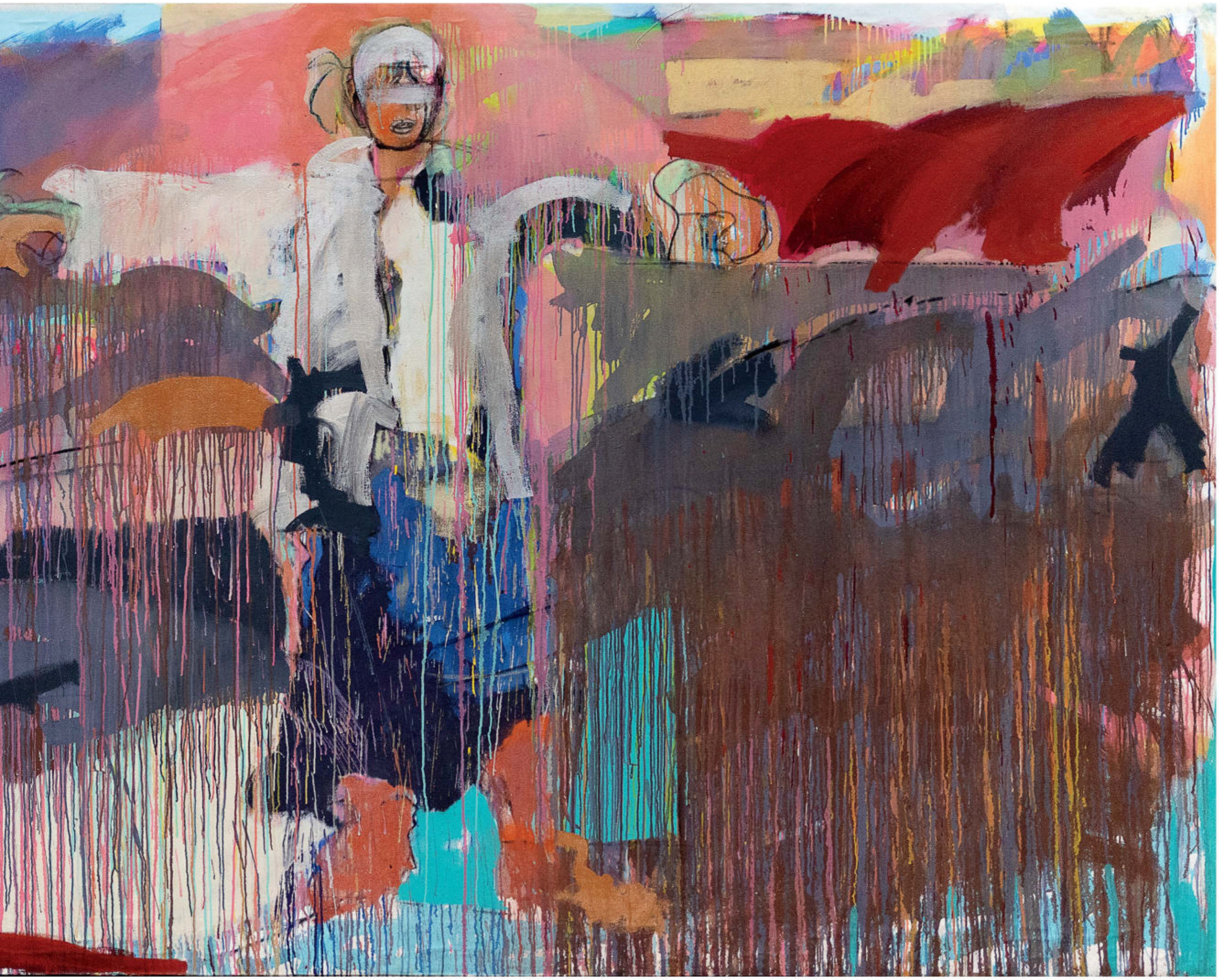
AFTER THE REVERED editor Adam Moss stepped down from *New York* magazine in 2019 following a 40-year career in journalism, he tried his hand at painting. Luckily for the rest of us, he wasn't very good at it. His struggles led him to write *The Work of Art,* which became an instant bestseller when it was published this spring. The title's nuance is a tip-off to what sets this book apart: It's an ode to the hard labor (both physical and mental) that goes into making art.

Moss set about interviewing more than 40 acclaimed creators of all stripes—visual artists, poets, composers, novelists, designers, filmmakers, playwrights, chefs, and even *The New York Times* crossword guru Will Shortz—to tease out their processes by focusing in on a specific project by each. Kara Walker recounts the development of her monumental sphinx-mammy installation, *A Subtlety, or the Marvelous Sugar Baby;* George Saunders talks about *Lincoln in the Bardo.* And no less a luminary than Stephen Sondheim treats his enraptured audience (self-proclaimed fanboy Moss but also, by extension, us) to an account of how he completely transformed "The Wedding Is Off," a comic song that just wasn't working, into the showstopping "Getting Married Today" for the musical *Company.*





RIGHT: **Mary Lovelace O'Neal, *Self-Portrait–She Now Calls Herself Sahara,* ca. 1990s, acrylic on canvas.** BELOW: **Suzanne Jackson, *Rag-to-Wobble,* 2020, acrylic, cotton paint cloth, and vintage dress hangers.**



MARY LOVELACE O'NEAL: COURTESY OF THE ARTIST. SUZANNE JACKSON: COURTESY THE ARTIST AND ORTUZAR PROJECTS, NEW YORK. PHOTO BY DAVID KAMINSK.

GROUP EXHIBITION

WHITNEY BIENNIAL 2024: EVEN BETTER THAN THE REAL THING

Whitney Museum of American Art

FOR THIS BIANNUAL exercise (the museum's 81st) in showcasing art that defines the scene today, lead curators Chrissie Iles and Meg Onli recruited a broad array of artists representing diverse ethnicities, geographies, genders, and sexualities. But what's particularly refreshing is that some of the most compelling work comes courtesy of octogenarian women, among them two Black artists. Mary Lovelace O'Neal's large abstract paintings, such as *Blue Whale a.k.a. #12* (from the "Whales Fucking" series), command the viewer's attention. Suzanne Jackson's canvas-free pieces, made from layers of acrylic paint, hang from above like brilliantly colored skins, or two-dimensional two-sided sculptures to be slowly circled.

Other highlights among the 71 artists and collectives include Jes Fan's eerily beautiful sculptures based on CAT scans of his body; Lotus L. Kang's installation *In Cascades,* a forest of dangling, monumental photographic films that she has exposed to light; and ektor garcia's delicately intricate crochet sculptures. The Biennial is on view through August 11, but if you can't make it to New York by then, the film program is available online.

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SPIRITS

By Jonah Flicker

THE BIG IDEA

BACK TO THE EARTH

THIS WHISKEY-WORLD arms race has accelerated in recent years, with brands taking big swings to make new bottles stand out. Most of the energy has focused on the aging end of things, using barrels made from nonstandard woods, for example, or creative cask finishes. Some distilleries have even blasted their whiskey with heavy-metal music or put it on board ships to sail the open ocean.

There is, however, a small but growing group of whiskey makers tinkering with the very start of the process, using heirloom grains rather than commodity products in the mash bill. These rare cultivars of rye, corn, and barley were developed decades or even centuries ago and have fallen largely out of use. American craft distillers are reviving them in the hopes that these forgotten crops can unlock new flavors—and new demand.

Take Scott Blackwell, cofounder of High Wire Distilling in Charleston, S.C., who set out to prove that different types of corn could have the same effect on a bourbon's flavor as grape varietals do on wine. His flagship spirit, Jimmy Red, uses Jimmy Red corn because it "has more complex properties, such as higher oil content, cinnamic acid, and anthocyanin," he explains. "These properties contribute to the flavor," which is described as having notes of graham crackers, cinnamon, and maple.

It's far easier to stick to mass-produced grains, and most distilleries do. But for an elite few, these older and rarer selections are worth the effort and expense involved. In the case of New York Distillery Company's Jaywalk Rye, cofounder Allen Katz worked with Cornell University's College of Agriculture for five years to bring an heirloom grain, Horton rye, from seed to spirit.

"Revitalizing a lost and forgotten variety of rye takes time and a nearly perverse sense of patience," Katz admits. He believes it pays off on the palate: Jaywalk has what he describes as less spice and more tropical-fruit notes than other ryes. He attributes this quality to Horton's physical makeup: "The head is tiny, a third of the size of conventional rye, with all of the sugars concentrated in a small set of seeds."

Ultimately, whiskey has to taste good no matter what type of grain is used. But these heirloom-distilled versions offer proof of concept with unique flavor profiles that differ significantly from whiskey made with mass-produced grains. In a world with seemingly endless options, these expressions truly stand out.

ILLUSTRATION BY Emmanuel Polanco

UNFILTERED STRAIGHT RYE WHISKEY
AGED 10 YEARS
AGED IN ESCALATOR WAREHOUSE
BORN IN P.A.
MADE IN K.Y.
OLD OVERHOLT
CASK STRENGTH
STRAIGHT RYE WHISKEY
AGED 10 YEARS

RYE WHISKEY

OLD OVERHOLT

Extra Aged Cask Strength Rye

OLD OVERHOLT IS a bartender's favorite for a reason: It's a Kentucky-style rye whiskey that's both affordable and delicious, with a nice balance of sweetness and spice on the palate. Last fall, the brand (which is made at the same distillery as Jim Beam) released this cask-strength, 10-year-old version of the whiskey, much to the delight of rye fans. This is indeed a superlative spirit, bottled at a hefty but not antagonistic 121 proof and chock-full of flavors, including black pepper, caramel, and baked apple. *$100*

CASK-FINISHED WHISKEY

WILD TURKEY

Master's Keep Voyage

WILD TURKEY'S Master's Keep collection offers master distiller Eddie Russell a chance to stretch his wings by experimenting with different blends and cask finishes. The latter technique is on full display here in what is arguably the best expression from this series of high-end Kentucky whiskeys to date. Voyage is a 10-year-old bourbon finished in Appleton Estate rum barrels for five to six weeks, and the result is transformative: Notes of brown sugar, grape jelly, and banana pop in every sip. *$275*

MASTER'S KEEP
KEEP
MASTER'S KEEP
RUM CASK FINISH
CELLAR AGED
WILD TURKEY
KENTUCKY STRAIGHT BOURBON WHISKEY
FINISHED IN JAMAICAN RUM CASKS
VOYAGE

BOURBON

MAKER'S MARK

Cellar Aged

WHEN IT COMES to wheated bourbon (meaning the mash bill uses wheat instead of rye), Maker's Mark is a dram par excellence. Last summer, the distillery launched its new Cellar Aged, a blend of 11- and 12-year-old bourbons that makes it the oldest Maker's expression to date. The barrels used for this release were moved to a cool limestone cellar for extra aging, slowing down the interaction with the wood. The result features notes of dark berries, caramel, citrus, and cinnamon, which make it fantastic for sipping. *$150*

PHOTOGRAPHY: Joyce Lee
LOCATION: THE ASTER HOTEL, LOS ANGELES

DIPLOMÁTICO
SINGLE VTG 2007
RÉMY MARTIN
COGNAC GRANDE CHAMPAGNE
300

RUM

DIPLOMÁTICO

2007 Single Vintage

VENEZUELA'S DIPLOMÁTICO RUM has released only eight single-vintage expressions since 1997. The term means that rum produced in an exceptional year—in this case, 2007—is held back and aged in ex-bourbon casks for another 12 years. After careful blending, it's given a yearlong sherry-cask finish. Notes of ripe cherry, blackberry, pineapple, and dark chocolate are front and center on the palate, making this a rum that whiskey fans will want to seek out. *$120*

COGNAC

L'OR DE JEAN MARTELL

Réserve du Château de Chanteloup

THE COGNAC CATEGORY is anchored by the humble VS and VSOP expressions, but the landscape is dotted with special releases, such as this new bottle from the Martell Cognac house. Réserve du Château Chanteloup is a blend of 1,400 eaux-de-vie finished in specially constructed barrels made from 300-year-old French oak. The château in its mouthful of a name is where the barrels worked their magic. There's a richness to this luxury Cognac, which shows off blossoming notes of espresso, fig, and apricot. In a category deep with high-end bottlings, this is a standout. *$7,500*

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TEQUILA
EL TEQUILEÑO

GIN

PROSPEROUS & PENNILESS

Barrel Finished Gin

IF YOU'RE NOT yet sold on the concept of barrel-aged gin, this bottle might persuade you to give the category another chance. Prosperous & Penniless is distilled in Northern California, an area more associated with wine than with spirits, but there's a connection here. The gin was distilled in a copper pot still imported from France's Cognac region, aged for four years in ex-bourbon and French Limousin-oak casks, and finally finished in Chardonnay barrels. The strategy produced a delicate gin filled with herbal and dried-fruit notes that's adept at both sipping and mixing. *$200*

MEZCAL

TRES TRIBUS

Espadín Capon

JUAN CORONADO, a cofounder of Mijenta Tequila, is also behind the new mezcal brand Tres Tribus, which is made from agave foraged in the Oaxacan wilderness. There are four expressions available, but the standout is the Espadín Capon. It's distilled from flowered agave, a move intended to enhance and concentrate the spirit's flavor. It appears to have done that here–every sip reveals a refined but still earthy taste that has notes of fruit and roasted nuts, a bit of citrus, and a subtle backbone of the smoke mezcal lovers have come to appreciate. *$140*

TEQUILA

EL TEQUILEÑO

Extra Añejo

THIS EXQUISITE BOTTLE is an example of what's possible when a distillery hits all the right marks, from agave harvesting to distillation to maturation. El Tequileño Extra Añejo is a blend of three- to four-year-old tequila aged in just three barrels—two of which were previously used to mature Jack Daniel's Tennessee whiskey and another made from new French oak. This tequila is a rich dark-amber color, and the palate veers from sweet vanilla to cooked agave to crisp pepper. The crystal decanter the spirit comes in is certainly worth displaying, but the liquid inside should be savored. *$800*

THE HAKUSHU
SINGLE MALT JAPANESE WHISKY
PEATED MALT
AGED 18 YEARS
100th ANNIVERSARY SUNTORY WHISKY
48% ALC/VOL (96 PROOF) 700 mL
BRUICH
ISLAY SINGLE MALT SCOTCH WHISKY

SINGLE-MALT SCOTCH

BRUICHLADDICH

Thirty

THE ISLAY DISTILLERY Bruichladdich makes some of the most heavily peated Scotch you can find for its Octomore range. These single-malt smoke bombs push the boundaries of flavor, but the core expression—the Classic Laddie—is actually an unpeated whisky. Such is the case with the new Bruichladdich Thirty, a three-decade-old single malt that comes from stock produced before the facility was shuttered in the 1990s. (It resumed operations in 2001.) This is an exemplary single malt with notes of dark chocolate, black pepper, and lemon curd. Despite its age, there's just a touch of oak that pulls back before becoming overly tannic. *$2,000*

JAPANESE WHISKY

HAKUSHU

18 Year Old Peated Malt Anniversary Edition

HIGH IN THE Japanese Alps, the Hakushu Distillery is producing some of the world's best single malts. The House of Suntory, its parent company, marked a century of whisky-making last year. To commemorate the occasion, it launched this new 18-year-old peated whisky, an elegant single malt that combines a gentle smokiness with notes of citrus and spice. If you're a fan of the rest of the Hakushu lineup—and even if you're not—this bottle is worth trying. *$1,200*

PROP STYLING: **Nidia Cueva**
BEVERAGE STYLING: **Caroline Hwang**

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20th Anniversary
LIMITED EDITION
20TH ANNIVERSARY

My Father Cigars celebrates Don Pepin García's 20th anniversary with the release of the limited edition "DON PEPIN GARCIA - 20TH ANNIVERSARY" cigar, accompanied by a magnificent humidor created with the rarest and most exotic woods. This incredible work of art is a collaboration with the French marquetry and fine-humidor expert Elie Bleu.

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BEST OF THE BEST
WINNER
2023

THE ONLY WINE FROM CHILE NAMED
"BEST OF THE BEST" BY GLOBAL LUXURY
PUBLICATION **ROBB REPORT**

REAL ESTATE

By Mark David and Abigail Montanez

THE BIG IDEA

THE RENTAL REVOLUTION

BORED WITH ROTATING between your same two (or three or four) homes? Tired of searching for a reliable caretaker to handle the minutiae of maintenance? Join the crowd. The corps of high-end renters has grown steadily over the past decade, with the number of rental households with $1 million–plus annual incomes tripling between 2015 and 2020, according to the listing site RentCafe.

Tight inventory and ballooning upkeep costs have only hastened the trend in recent years, with more and more affluent individuals forgoing ownership in favor of the freedom to quickly flit to different cities or neighborhoods, bypassing the headaches that come with owning a primary residence or buying a vacation home. Rising to meet the demand, white-glove boutique agencies, private clubs, and ultra-luxury hospitality brands around the world aim to provide their clientele all the comforts of home with none of the hassle.

Firms such as London-based Richstone Properties take care of everything. Available for one week to a year or longer, each of its properties is outfitted, maintained, and staffed by a chef and a housekeeping team. Pool heater on the fritz? Call Richstone. Driveway gate jammed? Call Richstone. No muss, no fuss—and no need to cultivate a contact list of tradespeople.

In Los Angeles, the city's "mansion tax" has put a chill on the luxury residential market, with home sales above $5 million falling by 68 percent since it took effect in March 2023. But one upside is that some owners are now willing to lease out their expensive homes. The Maimon Group, which offers a range of furnished properties across L.A. for both short-and long-term stays, fosters a frictionless lifestyle that all but eliminates the need for private staff, providing concierge services that extend from dinner reservations and curated VIP experiences to filling the fridge and assisting in exotic-car rentals and private jet and yacht charters.

On the opposite coast, members of Fasano Fifth Avenue, a private club and hotel residence in New York, can sojourn for a minimum of 30 days in a one-room clubhouse suite or, for about $140,000 a month, in a 3,600-square-foot duplex that features walls covered in Loro Piana cashmere and views over Central Park.

Perhaps now isn't the right time to buy that oceanfront spread in Palm Beach. Or maybe you'd like to test-drive living in Paris. Fortunately, the ability to pack your bags and alight in a fully stocked and serviced home just about anywhere in the world—and to leave it just as nonchalantly—is only getting easier. Just grab a toothbrush and go.

ILLUSTRATION BY Emmanuel Polanco

PENTHOUSE

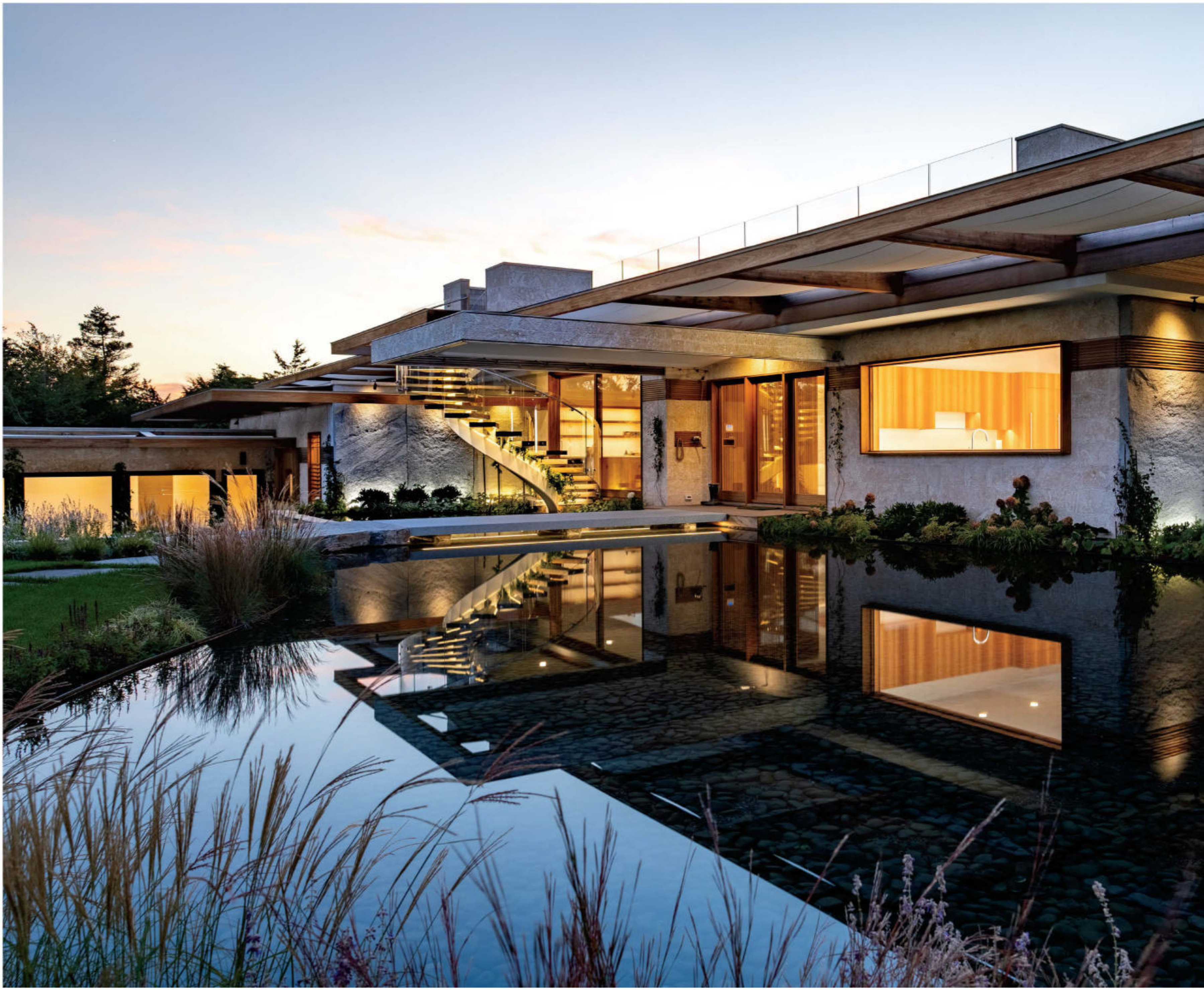
1 CENTRAL PARK SOUTH

New York City

WHAT'S BETTER THAN one penthouse atop the landmark Plaza Hotel? Obviously, two. The current owners of an over-the-top trophy apartment above Central Park acquired the duplex next door to their 6,316-square-foot triplex to create a massive family compound in the sky. The sellers never joined the interiors architecturally, leaving that creative endeavor to the buyer and the architect of their choice.

Together, the palatial units add up to over 10,000 square feet of living space, with seven bedrooms, eight full bathrooms, two half baths, and a dramatic 82-foot-long terrace that connects the adjoining residences. Each home features sun-drenched common areas, guest quarters, and in-unit elevators. Of course, the mega-condo, listed for a combined $60 million, comes with exclusive hotel perks, too, such as concierge services and access to the historical hotel's Guerlain spa and Champagne Bar.

INTERIOR: TRAVIS MARK. TERRACE: EITAN GAMLIELY.



BIOPHILIC DESIGN

MINAWETU

West Tisbury, Mass.

BIOPHILIA, THE TENDENCY to want to be in close connection to nature, has swept the design realm, from Dutch fashion designer Iris van Herpen's fantastical creations inspired by marine biology and other natural environments to innovative homes conceived specifically to promote an integrated, life-affirming relationship to water, trees, and sky. Minawetu on Martha's Vineyard, designed and constructed by Tate Builders and available for $24.5 million, is one such residence.

The 3.3-acre bluff-top estate has access to 250 feet of sandy beach, and the recently completed seven-bedroom expanse is underpinned by the 14 patterns of biophilic design, which include the presence of water and a strong material and visual connection to nature. The patterns are said to boost mind and body as well as positively impact attitude and mental health. Organic materials found throughout the contemporary home include eucalyptus wood, split-face Chelmsford granite, and white scratched coral from the Dominican Republic. In addition to ample, sun-filled living spaces and a separate guesthouse, there are pebble-lined reflecting ponds, a rooftop garden, and an array of solar panels.

SKI CHALET

LA FENICE

Cervinia, Italy

WHAT WAS ONCE a rundown villa in the Alps is now an idyllic ski chalet, thanks to an extensive five-year renovation. Known as La Fenice, Italian for "the phoenix," the circa-1936 building is perched atop a plateau, standing at an elevation of 330 feet above the popular alpine resort area of Cervinia.

In its 88-year lifespan, the home was regularly visited by the Italian royal family and was acquired in 2015 by its current owners, who tapped architect Mariapia Bettiol to restore the place to its original rustic charm. Challenged with modernizing the residence for future generations, Bettiol designed a 13,000-square-foot oasis featuring seven bedrooms, a spa with an indoor swimming pool, a ski room, and a helipad. Plus, there's an outdoor Jacuzzi that enjoys panoramic views of the Matterhorn. This is the first time the property has hit the market since it was rebuilt, and the asking price is about $26 million.

CELEBRITY HOME

BOB DYLAN'S AULTMORE HOUSE

Nethy Bridge, Scotland

FOR NEARLY TWO decades, Aultmore House in the Scottish Highlands was acclaimed singer-songwriter Bob Dylan's palatial country retreat. The Grammy Award winner and his brother, David Zimmerman, owned the sprawling Edwardian estate within Cairngorms National Park from 2006 until it sold at the end of last year for $5.35 million.

Surrounded by a whimsical walled garden and lush woodlands, the 25-acre property features a 19th-century, 16-bedroom main residence that Dylan personally had a hand in restoring. The stately spread also includes an orchard, a Victorian greenhouse, a croquet lawn, a private pond, and three renovated guest cottages.

BEACH HOUSE

BLONDEL COVE

Turks and Caicos

WITHIN THE GATED Blue Cay Estate enclave on Providenciales, an island in the Turks and Caicos archipelago, Blondel Cove appeals to both beach lovers and boaters. Sold this spring for $16.95 million (under the $18 million asking price), the contemporary waterfront home sits on more than 1.3 acres and encompasses about 7,500 square feet of interior living space, 260 feet of ocean frontage, and another 400 feet of dock and canal frontage. There are a total of six bedrooms and six bathrooms, plus a couple of half baths, between the two-story main house and the guest lodgings, both offering clean-lined, almost minimalist interiors. The lush enclosed grounds offer a beachfront swimming pool alongside a large deck, a gym housed in a small pavilion next to the tennis court, a golf net, a half-court basketball court, and a pristine stretch of white-sand beach.

BLONDEL COVE: GARY JAMES

J. Lohr

SIGNATURE

*"Through five decades,
we have built our winegrowing expertise
and honed our cellar regimens in Paso
Robles with one aim: to craft a Cabernet
Sauvignon the equal of any in the world.
My signature on the label indicates that
this wine is a personal statement for me;
it is a heartfelt thank you to Paso Robles
and to the many J. Lohr team members
who have helped achieve this milestone."*

—JERRY LOHR,
FOUNDER & CFO

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50 Years
of Family Winegrowing

J. LOHR
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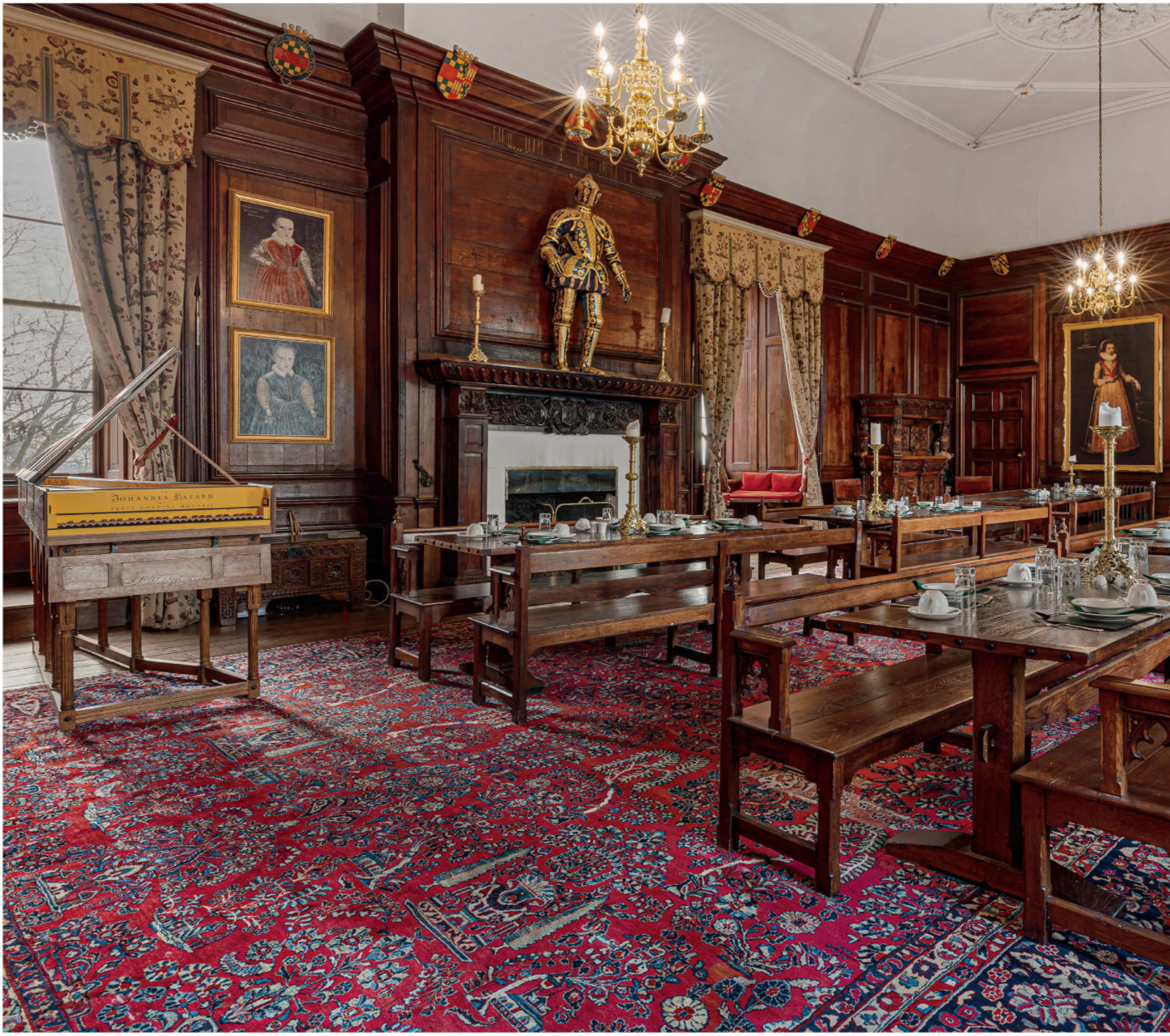


CASTLE

APPLEBY CASTLE

Cumbria, England

LOCATED ON THE edge of the Lake District—England's largest national park and a UNESCO World Heritage Site—Appleby Castle is one of the most historic castles in the U.K. Dating back to the 1100s, the enduring Grade I–listed building has been occupied by British and Scottish monarchs, as well as Lady Anne Clifford, famed for restoring her family's castles in the 17th century.

On the market for $11.87 million, the 25-acre compound features a 12th-century motte-and-bailey castle, a 13th-century round tower, and a traditional Norman keep that's over 900 years old. Altogether, the 20,000-square-foot complex includes 22 bedrooms, 19 bathrooms, and contemporary comforts such as a gym and sauna. In 2013, its current owner converted part of the property into a working hotel and a four-floor museum known as the Norman Centre.

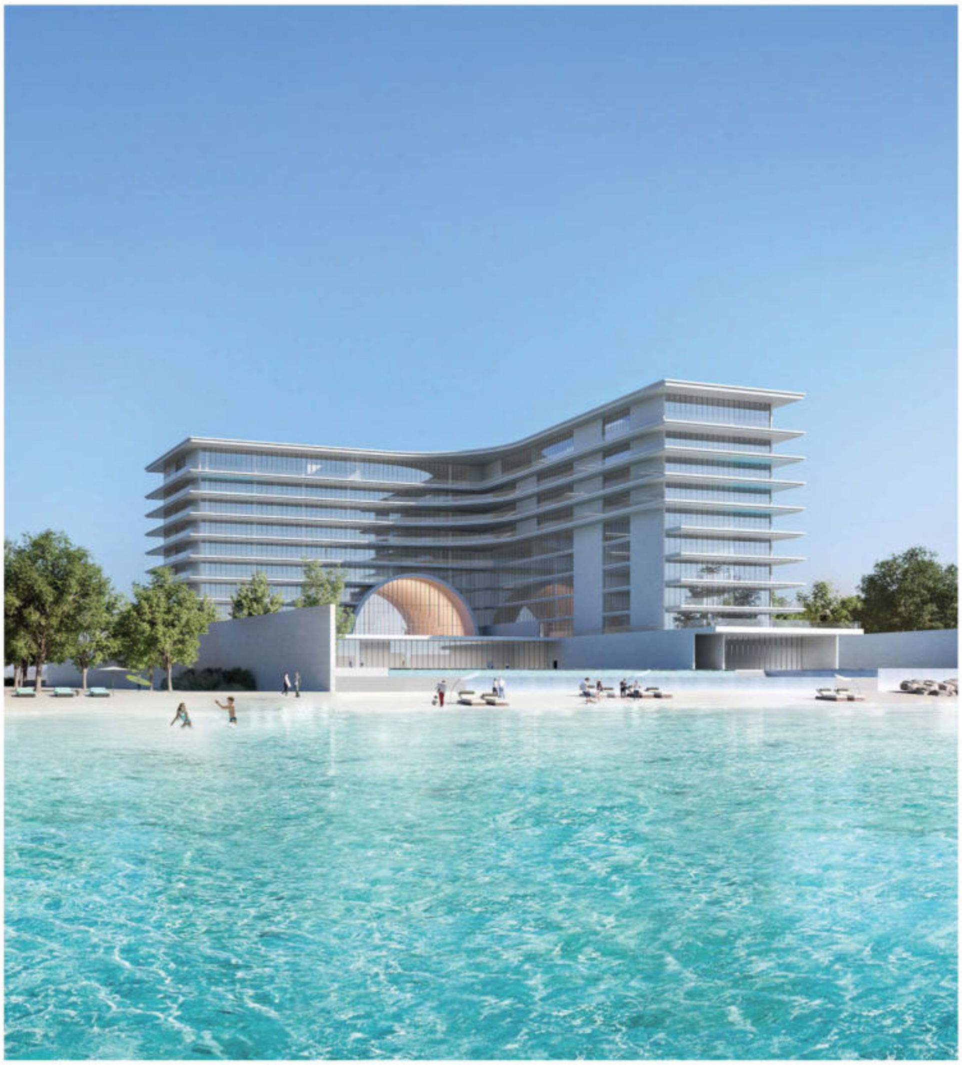
BRANDED RESIDENCE

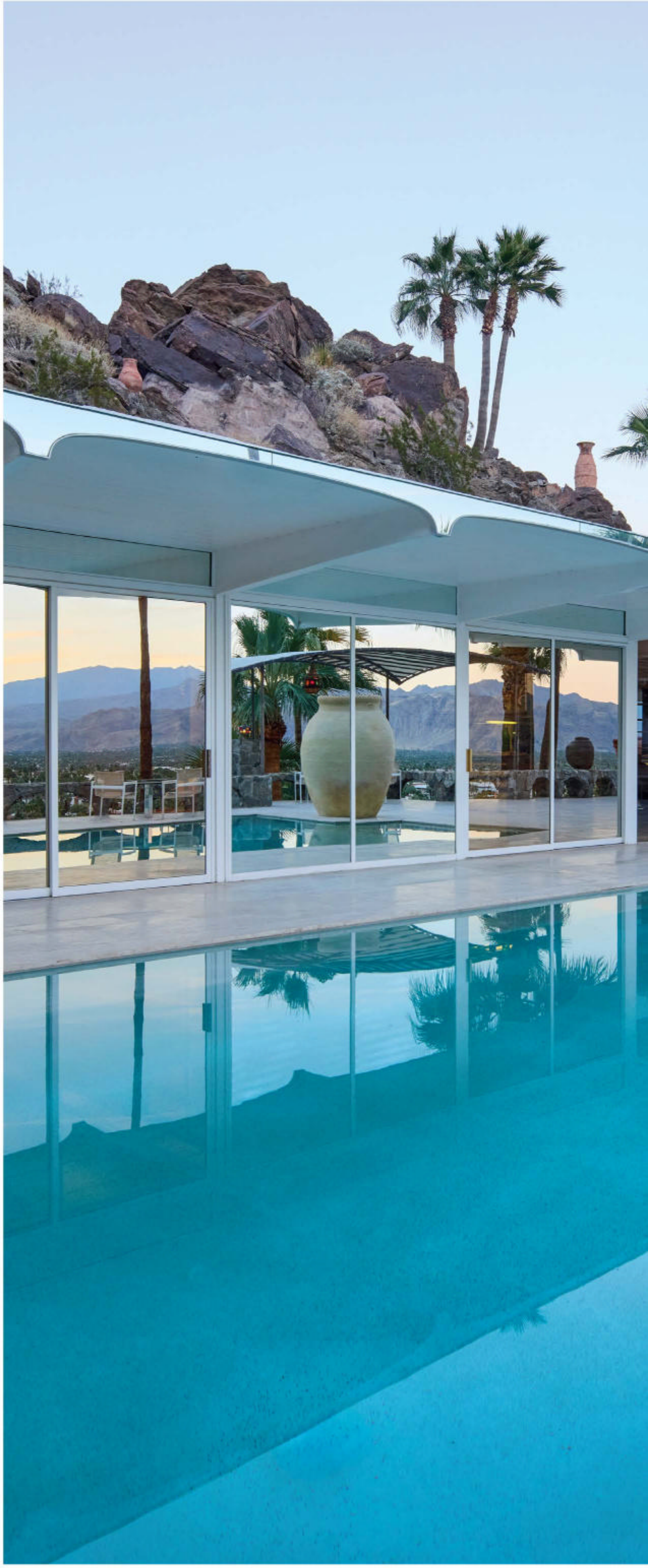
ARMANI BEACH RESIDENCES AT PALM JUMEIRAH

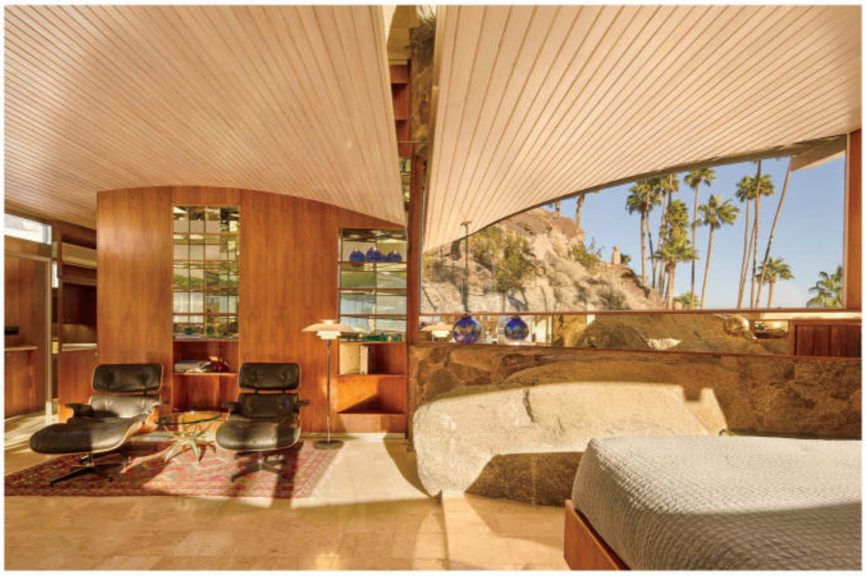
Dubai

PRITZKER PRIZE–WINNING architect Tadao Ando and Italian fashion group Armani have a working history that dates back over 20 years—to when Ando was commissioned to design an event and performance space at the brand's headquarters in Milan. The two have since collaborated on a new venture: the Armani Beach Residences at Palm Jumeirah, the first time Ando and Armani have teamed up on a residential project.

The branded development in Dubai, which launched sales in January and is slated to reach completion by the end of 2026, will encompass 53 individually curated homes, all decorated and furnished by Armani/Casa, the fashion firm's design studio. Floor plans range from 2,294-square-foot two-bedrooms with a starting price of about $5.7 million to 13,374-square-foot presidential suites beginning at $92.7 million. In addition, the tower will feature 90,000 square feet of residents-only amenities, including a spa, a cigar lounge, a movie theater, and a private beach. The common areas will be designed in Ando's signature minimalist style, emphasizing natural materials such as glass, steel, and concrete, with interiors by Armani/Casa.







MIDCENTURY HOUSE

BOUGAIN VILLA

Palm Springs, Calif.

THE STREETS OF Palm Springs are brimming with pedigreed midcentury-modern homes, but few are as magnificently sited—or as cleverly named—as the preserved-in-architectural-amber residence known as Bougain Villa. The 3,000-square-foot abode, listed for sale just after the first of the year for $8.75 million and quickly snapped up for $8.15 million, is set atop a zigzagging stone rampart notched into a rocky outcropping just behind the Palm Springs Art Museum.

Originally designed by master architect Hugh Kaptur, the home was built in 1958 for William Burgess, an L.A.-based electronics-industry executive. Burgess later tapped Swiss-born architect Albert Frey to expand the house and add a guest cottage.

Vast walls of glass, some of which are mirrored on the outside to reflect the surrounding landscape, slide open to a massive terrace and swimming pool. Giant boulders are incorporated into the interior spaces, while the delicate roofline resembles the wings of a bird in flight.

HISTORICAL PROPERTY

COPPER BEECH FARM

Greenwich, Conn.

WHEN COPPER BEECH FARM in Greenwich sold last year for nearly $139 million, the spread set the record for the highest price ever paid for a private home in the Constitution State. The 50-acre waterfront compound sprawls over a personal peninsula on Long Island Sound, and the stately 13,500-square-foot main house, at the end of an 1,800-foot driveway that winds through manicured grounds, dates to 1898.

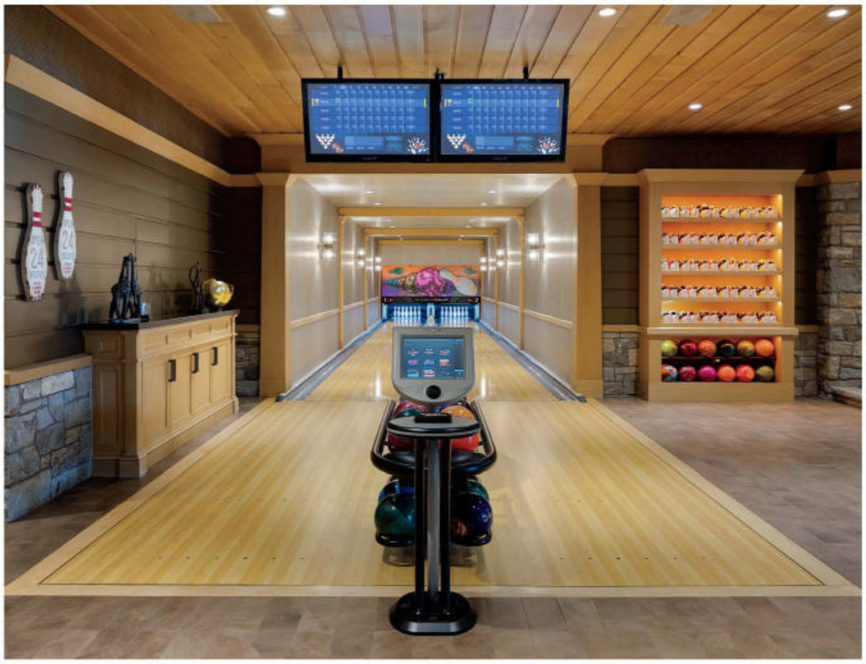
Though it has undergone extensive updates over its 126-year life, the stone-accented mansion retains much of its original grandeur, with original oak paneling, 12-foot ceilings, and nine fireplaces. Terraced gardens and an orchard are encircled by towering trees that create a sense of total seclusion. The estate also has a grass tennis court, a 75-foot-long swimming pool, a bathhouse, two greenhouses, and about a mile of water frontage with two exclusive-use beaches. It also includes a three-bedroom gatehouse and a stone-clad carriage house, complete with a clock tower.

AMENITIES

6A SPRING HILL LANE

Old Westbury, N.Y.

JAY GATSBY CERTAINLY could have thrown quite the bash at this $28 million Gold Coast mansion. Situated on a seven-acre lot within Old Westbury's exclusive Spring Hill enclave on Long Island, this seven-bedroom stone estate is the handiwork of developer John Kean and was built in 2013. Merging old-school elegance with ultramodern amenities, the custom digs are the ultimate playground for kids and adults alike. There are two swimming pools (indoor and out), a serene spa, a billiards room, a 12-seat movie theater, and an arcade. For sports enthusiasts, there are plenty of other perks, including an indoor half-basketball court, a two-lane bowling alley, a tennis pavilion, a golf simulator, and a par-3 golf hole in the backyard.



COPPER BEECH FARM: DANIEL MILSTEIN. SPRING HILL LANE: JOSH GOETZ.

King Lake

Want bragging rights?

Own your own piece of paradise. King Lake is a one-of-a-kind 246-acre property (approx. one (1) square km of land) just minutes away from a major highway and 30 minutes from Toronto. The spectacular private lake has hosted the Canadian waterskiing championships.

Purchase Price:

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Robb Report *in focus*

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Nixta is not a typical taquería. Owners, Sara Mardanbigi and Chef Edgar Rico, a James Beard Award winner, aim to transform the landscape of what Mexican-American cuisine can be.

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The Presidente and Soberano Tubos come in 15-count boxes of portable tubos aged a minimum four years – complex, balanced and full-bodied tobacco – an excellent addition to Padrón's acclaimed 1964 Anniversary Series. Available in natural and maduro wrapper.

Branded Residences

The allure of luxury real estate collaborations.

Exclusive properties in stunning locations, plus the cachet, style, and reliability of a valued name—that is the promise of a branded residence. Whether it's an expansive apartment in an iconic landmark or an artful space in a high-rise with a waterfront panorama, these extraordinary residences represent rare opportunities to enjoy the amenities and meticulous services of a fine resort with the privacy and personalized style you want in your own home.

Photos Courtesy: Rosewood Residences Lido Key

THE WALDORF-ASTORIA

One of the World's Most Iconic Addresses Opens to Condominium Ownership

Introducing Waldorf Astoria Residences New York in Midtown Manhattan.

The iconic Waldorf Astoria on Park Avenue has been a beacon of timeless glamour for nearly a century—home to Hollywood's elite, host to countless world leaders, and the site of famed cultural events and galas.

Now offering the opportunity to own a residence at one of the world's most coveted addresses, Waldorf Astoria Residences New York will introduce an unparalleled residential lifestyle to the heart of Midtown Manhattan, providing residents with a world of exclusive private amenities, along with access to the best-in-class services and a lifestyle found only at the globally renowned Waldorf Astoria New York hotel.

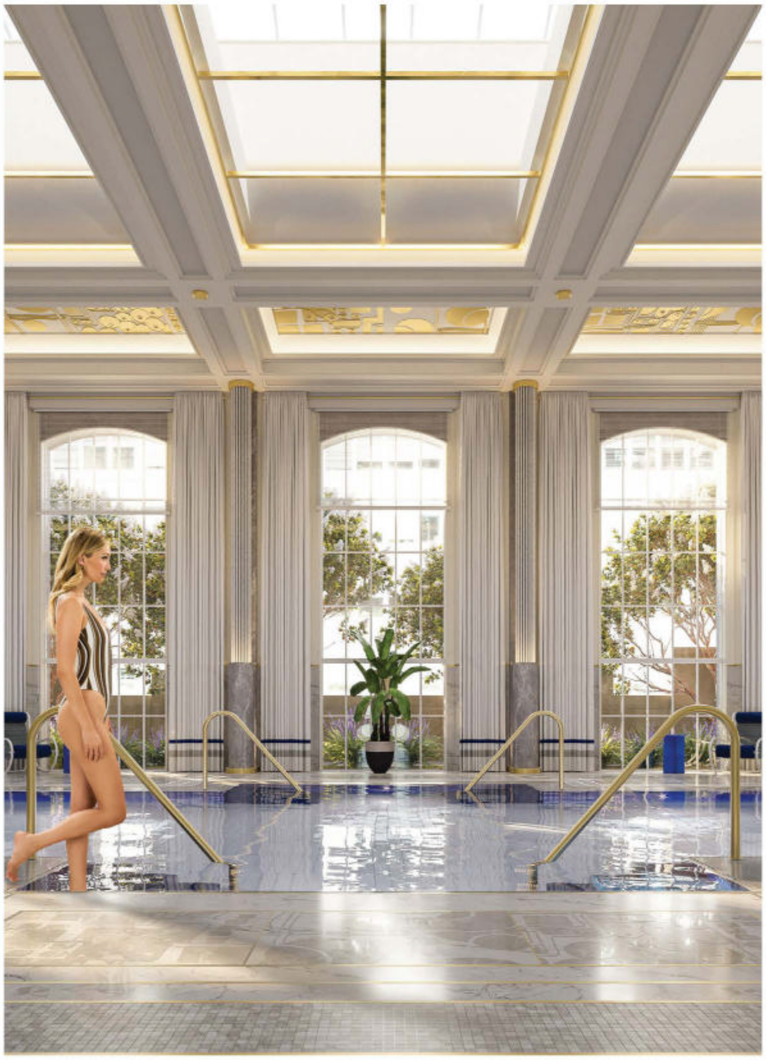
Waldorf Astoria New York will continue to set the international standard for luxurious hotel service, and future residents will enjoy priority access to the unrivaled services of the 375-key hotel, along with more than 100,000 square feet of hotel amenities, ranging from the sprawling 30,000-square-foot spa to the standout signature restaurant.

Led by renowned architects Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, the landmarked property is in the midst of an unprecedented restoration, characterized by meticulous attention to detail and preservation. Retaining the scale and beauty of the original Art Deco architecture and reimagined with contemporary touches, the sophisticated interiors and amenities by internationally acclaimed designer Jean-Louis Deniot create a truly modern residential experience within the building's historic framework.

The residences range from gracious studios to opulent four-bedroom homes and penthouses, many with unique floor plans and private terraces. Privacy and security are paramount, with a residential entrance separate from the hotel, a private porte cochere with 24-hour valet service, and a concierge closet at the entry of every residence—allowing for seamless delivery of packages and room service.

Owners also have the opportunity to purchase furnished turnkey residences at Waldorf Astoria Residences New York in an exclusive New York City partnership with global luxury furnishings and design group B&B Italia. Seamlessly blending innovative design in furniture and interiors with the opportunity to add curated accessories and state-of-the-art audiovisual equipment from leading electronics brand Bang & Olufsen, the residences offer an elevated lifestyle and rare ownership opportunity in the heart of Midtown Manhattan.

Residents will have access to more than 50,000 square feet of private residential amenities, ranging from health and wellness facilities to entertaining and business experiences, including a stunning 25-meter pool with skylight overlooking Park Avenue, a state-of-the-art fitness center, opulent spas for men and women, gaming rooms, a theater, and numerous venues to host events, including the expansive Empire Club business center, which occupies an entire wing of the 19th floor.



Waldorf Astoria Residences New York will offer 375 condominium residences starting from $1.8 million, represented exclusively by Douglas Elliman Development Marketing. Please visit waldorftowers.nyc, follow the building's Instagram @WaldorfNYC, or call (212) 872-1272 for a private appointment at the on-site residential gallery.

ROSEWOOD
RESIDENCES
LIDO KEY

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Rivage Bal Harbour Offers a Tropical, Modern Take on Luxury Oceanfront Living

One of Miami Beach's most elite enclaves has a spectacular new development.

Rivage Bal Harbour stands as the first luxury development in more than a decade within the upscale, low-density, high-rise neighborhood of Bal Harbour, offering a rare opportunity for buyers seeking the pinnacle of oceanfront living.

Led by visionary developers Related Group, Two Roads Development, and Rockpoint, Rivage Bal Harbour represents a once-in-a-generation project, redefining luxury living in one of Miami Beach's most elevated neighborhoods.

Designed to evoke the essence of a refined lifestyle, the 56 units at Rivage Bal Harbour feature expansive floor plans with high ceilings, top-of-the-line finishes, and deep outdoor terraces. Employing a tropical modern aesthetic, architecture firm Skidmore, Owings & Merrill forgoes rigid lines in favor of flowing, natural shapes and seamless indoor-outdoor spaces. The property's main 275-foot tower is a love letter to the sea and sky, with its three interconnecting glass ovals evoking a crystalline coral reef while allowing for maximum water views.

"With Rivage Bal Harbour, we set out to offer a no-compromise, 'mansion-in-the-sky' lifestyle," said Nick Pérez, president of condominium development for Related Group.

> "Rivage is more than just a boutique condo; it's a symbol of modern, bespoke luxury long awaited in Miami Beach's most exclusive neighborhood."

Ranging from 3,300 to an astounding 13,000 square feet, and offering unparalleled luxury, privacy, and convenience, these residences combine the grandeur of single-family homes with the ease of condo living. Each residence offers in-unit elevator access and a private parking garage. Residents will also enjoy custom kitchens with Sub-Zero and Wolf appliances, as well as bathrooms and closets designed by Rottet Studio with imported Italian finishes. The mansion-in-the-sky feel is furthered by the sprawling living rooms that open to oversize terraces with direct views of the Atlantic Ocean, the Miami skyline, and nearby Biscayne Bay.

The tower's amenity package is equally thoughtful, with services and activities comparable to the most renowned resorts. A focus on wellness connects the more than 25,000 square feet of on-site offerings, including a state-of-the-art fitness pavilion with panoramic views; a hammam spa, complete with hot/cold plunge pools and private treatment rooms; and pickle- and paddleball courts surrounded by lush landscapes designed by Enea Garden Design.

Residents and guests will also enjoy additional laid-back options, including chef-driven food and beverage services, a private cocktail lounge, a VR game simulator, and a kids' playroom. Resort-style services, notably a 24/7 residential butler and dedicated lifestyle concierge, round out the package and ensure all residents' whims are met.

The neighborhood of Bal Harbour has been an enclave for the elite since its establishment in 1929. Located between iconic South Beach and Sunny Isles, Rivage Bal Harbour offers easy access to the world-famous Bal Harbour Shops, as well as all the best South Florida has to offer.

Photo Courtesy ArX Creative

For more information or to arrange a private tour with photorealistic MetaOriginal technology, please visit rivagebalharbour.com.

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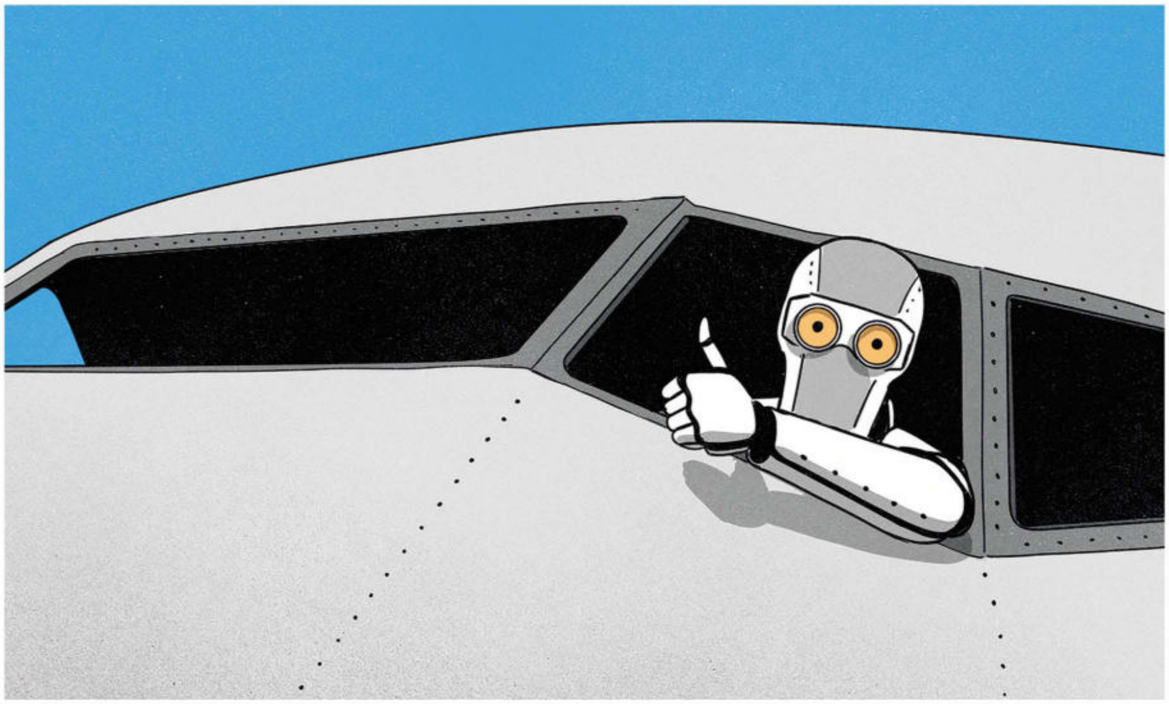
By Michael Verdon and Julie Boatman



THE BIG IDEA

NEXT-GEN PILOTING IS HERE

THE FAST-APPROACHING era of electric aircraft will transform intracity and regional travel for passengers, but it will also fundamentally change the pilot experience. The new crop of electric vertical takeoff and landing (eVTOL) craft are smaller than most helicopters and conventional planes, but also potentially more complex, with multiple rotors that tilt for hovering and forward motion. That's supplemented by the need to constantly assess flight conditions in what promise to be busy urban airways, all while managing prop and rotor pitch and adjusting ailerons, rudders, elevators, and landing gear.

How does one lessen the pilot's burden without compromising safety? The answer, eVTOL leaders Archer and Joby agree, involves unified flight controls, adopted from military programs such as the F-35B fighter jet. The fly-by-wire systems used by Dassault, Gulfstream, and Bombardier operate on the same principle, with a flight control computer (FCC) linked to a multi-servo digital autopilot. Unlike mechanical systems of older aircraft, where a pilot controls every aspect of flight, here the computer takes over once the pilot inputs commands.

The next generation of unified flight controls are significantly faster, smaller, and more sophisticated. BAE Systems has designed controls that relay pilot input every few milliseconds but are 40 percent more compact than five years ago. This customized technology is designed to be intuitive for fixed-wing or rotorcraft pilots and far more simplified.

Joby's inceptor, or the stick that controls speed, for example, re-centers after an input, maintaining the airspeed set by the pilot—similar to cruise control in a car. "If I want to go to 100 knots, I'll kind of peg the stick," says Joby's Greg Bowles. "The number reaches 100, you let go, and it's going to stay at 100. If you continue to accelerate, it'll get to a maximum safe top speed and stop."

"The pilot doesn't control power," adds Archer's Brian Gump. "The pilot commands acceleration or deceleration, a climb or descent, or a heading change, and the FCCs allocate power as required to meet that command." Archer's controls include two sticks: The left regulates velocity while the right handles vertical speed and direction.

These advances signal a new chapter for not only the eVTOL world, but also how pilots train. Flight is not so automated that the aviator is entirely removed from the equation—the pilot still dictates the direction and navigation of the aircraft's path—but it is a fundamentally new way of flying. Not exactly a magic carpet, but closer than aviation has ever been before.

ILLUSTRATION BY Emmanuel Polanco

SUPER-MIDSIZE JET

TEXTRON AVIATION

Citation CJ3 Gen2

WHILE IT WAS no surprise that Textron Aviation would sequence through one of its most successful models for next-gen treatment, the Citation CJ3 Gen2 update still rocks, making it our pick for best of the super-midsize fleet. Inside, the revised CJ3 looks and feels like a bigger jet than its predecessor, with an interior that its engineers are justifiably proud of—from the articulating seats to the use of eco-friendly materials throughout. On the flight deck, the updated Garmin G3000, coupled with the new GDL 60 data link, transforms the pilot's suite into a connected cockpit. The jet has a max cruise of 416 knots true airspeed, a max range of 2,040 nautical miles, and a landing distance of 2,770 feet. *$10.99 million*

CITATION
CJ3

6X
F-WAVE
Falcon
6X

LARGE CABIN

DASSAULT
6X

DASSAULT RECENTLY delivered its first long-range 6X, completing a circle that began after the French aerospace firm cancelled its four-year-old 5X program in 2017 without delivering any aircraft. It stretched the 5X's fuselage by 20 feet to get the 6X, creating its debut wide-body configuration, which has a wider floor and taller cabin than its competitors. Despite the extra girth, the 6X's stats are impressive: 5,500-nautical-mile range (delivering nonstop flights from Los Angeles to Geneva or São Paulo to London), 16-passenger capacity, and maximum speed of Mach 0.9. The customizable cabin, divided into three zones, has 30 extra-large windows, a full galley, and features such as a low-altitude pressurization system and circadian-rhythm lights to mitigate jet lag. Fly-by-wire controls and an advanced situational-awareness system called Falcon Eye are the cockpit differentiators. Plus, the 6X has paved the way for an even larger wide-body, the ultra-long-range 10X, scheduled for delivery in 2027. *$53 million*

TURBOPROP

PIPER
M700 Fury

PIPER HAS PUMPED its new flagship turboprop up a notch in power, giving the M700 the added range and climb rate—and just enough speed—that it needs to really compete in the category. The Pratt & Whitney PT6A-52 moves the Fury to 700 shaft hp, clicking up to a top speed (at 28,000 feet) of 301 knots true airspeed. Two vastly improved stats: The climb rate jumps to 3,432 feet per minute, while takeoff distance has been dialed back to 1,994 feet. That means the M700 Fury closes the gap with its faster competitors—the Epic E1000 GX and the Daher TBM 960—for up to a million bucks less, making it perfect for a couple or young family of four. *From $4.1 million*

FURY
M700
FURY
M700

AZIMUT'S GRANDE 26M OFFERS LUXE VERSATILITY AND SOPHISTICATED AESTHETICS

Azimut Yachts has continuously established the benchmark for forward-thinking creativity and refined aesthetics in the boating sector. With its Grande Series, which offers unparalleled levels of luxury and extensive personalization options for the owners, Azimut confirms its primacy in the yachting industry.

The Grande 26M is capable of a dazzling transformation which, thanks to the innovative Deck 2 Deck™, expands the cockpit onto a luxurious terrace over the waves. Built with versatility in mind, the opening transom comes up to lie flush with the aft edge of the main deck. The new space offers boundless views of the sea and a walkaround table accessible on all four sides.

The layout of the Grande 26M includes multiple levels that encourage an intimate connection with the surrounding sea. Along with limitless spaces, there is also complete privacy, suggesting a superyacht-inspired sophistication. The interiors, designed by Achille Salvagni, are enriched with elements in complete harmony with the natural environment.

The Grande 26M joins Azimut's fleet of low-emission yachts, which now includes more than half the brand's models. These boats guarantee a 20% to 30% reduction in fuel consumption—and therefore CO2 emissions—compared with equivalent shaft line models with hard-chine hulls.

Robb Report
BEST OF THE BEST

PAST BEST OF THE BEST HONORS: 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2015, 2013, 2012, 2011, 2008, 2007, 2006, 2005, 2003, 1997

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GRANDE 26M

THE GRANDE SERIES

26M | 27M | 32M | 36M | TRIDECK

EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE

Inspired by an affinity for grandeur, the Azimut Grande Series is a spectacular collection of works of art that combines advanced technology with engineering mastery. Visionary design reimagines the function of space with surprising innovation, revolutionizing the onboard lifestyle through the creative touch and aesthetic of authentic Made in Italy.

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AZIMUT

ENHANCED FLIGHT DECK

CIRRUS

SR Series G7

FROM THE OUTSIDE, the three new Cirrus SR G7s look the same as the G6 line, albeit with striking new paint schemes. But the flight deck holds the big reveal, which is the company's strategy to fully align its piston series (from the SR20 on up) to its SF50 Vision Jet by offering a remarkably similar piloting experience, with an intuitive interface that simplifies the learning curve. The idea is that, when owners are ready to trade up to the Vision Jet, they'll be prepared. The new avionics are the brains behind a host of piston-specific tools that pilots will use to ease workload, navigate on the ground and in the air, and enhance comfort along with safety. With context-driven taxi displays, automatic tank switching, and flap-overspeed protection, the Cirrus SR G7 operates more like a jet—and thanks to new overhead appointments and thoughtfully updated panels, lighting, USB-C power ports, and dedicated storage throughout, even the passengers will feel the difference. *Prices range from $634,900 for the SR20 model to $969,900 for the SR22 Turbo model.*

HELICOPTER

LEONARDO

AW09

THIS SINGLE-TURBINE helicopter is moving through flight tests, with projected certification in 2025. It has been a long wait since the initial development by Marenco Swisshelicopter began in 2009. The project was on and off until 2020, when Leonardo acquired Marenco (rebranded as the Kopter Group) and relaunched it. The delay proved fortuitous: Leonardo went back to the drawing board on many details, including the Safran Arriel 2K engine, making the AW09 a compelling alternative to its twin-engine competitors. The chameleonlike interior, for instance, can be configured for multiple missions, including executive transport. It features a flat floor, large windows, seats for up to eight passengers, low vibration levels, and superior air-conditioning. The Garmin G3000H flight deck provides enhanced situational awareness, with the pilot able to push the helicopter to 140 knots, and its range is 432 nautical miles. *From about $4.2 million*

HB-ZXC
kopter

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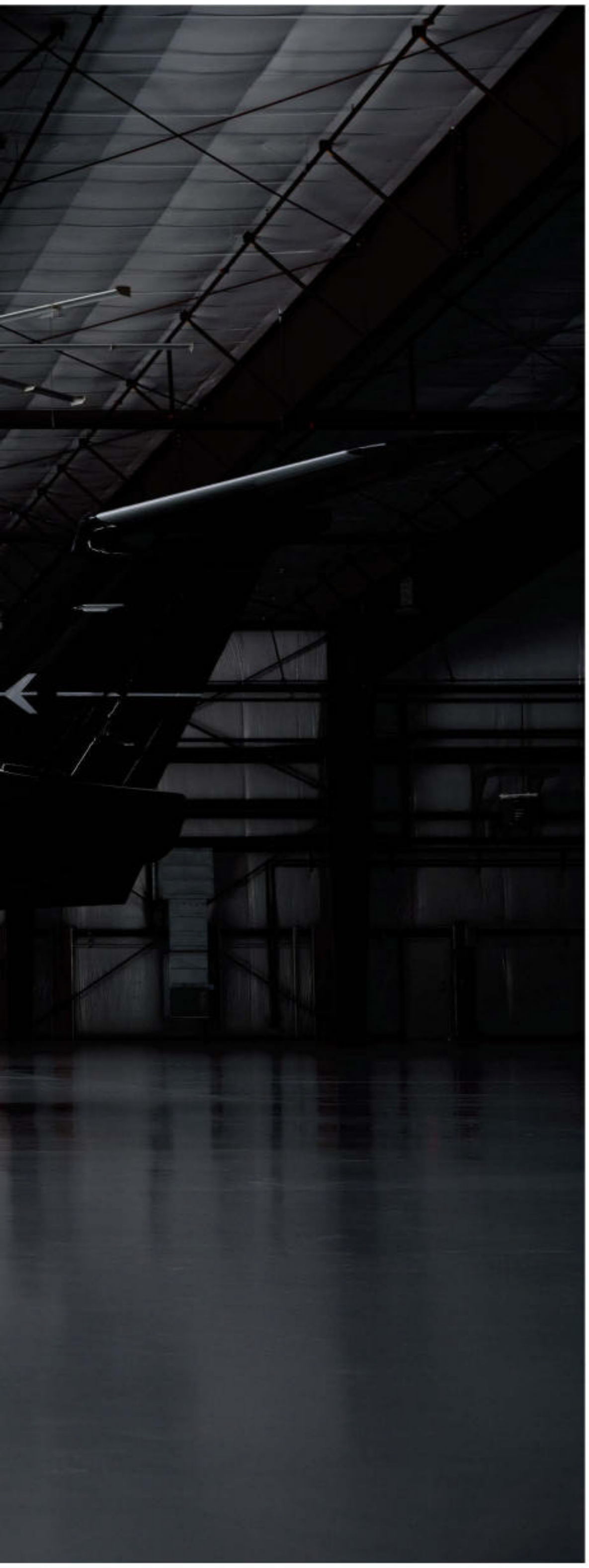
PHENOM 100EX

LIGHT JET

EMBRAER

Phenom 100EX

EMBRAER LEANS into the big E with its evolution of the Phenom 100EX. Choose your word: Efficiency, environment, experience—they all play a part to make it the biggest-feeling light jet on the market, which is a particularly crowded segment. Up front, the optional Runway Overrun Awareness and Alerting System that enhances stabilized approaches adds an extra layer of protection during a critical phase of flight, while the Flight Stream 510 allows the pilot to connect portable electronic devices to the aircraft avionics, thus reducing workload. In the cabin, Embraer's design team has revised every element—opening up the space, upgrading the seats, increasing workspace by 30 percent by repositioning tables, and using new combinations of leather, Ultraleather, and veneer to dress up the interior. Stats remain best in class: a top speed of Mach 0.7, a 1,178-nautical-mile range, and a takeoff distance of 3,190 feet. *$5.5 million*



JET CARD

SENTIENT

SJ25+

IF THERE'S A gold standard for jet cards, Sentient, which launched the industry's first in 1999, can claim the title. Despite the onslaught of competitors, its 25-hour card has remained at the top of the pack even as it celebrates its 25th anniversary. The differentiators: Sentient's new app allows clients to quote prices and book flights in under 60 seconds via text, its preferred aircraft fleet is top-tier, and the card is backed by a multitiered safety structure for its clients, including an independent safety advisory board. Or just consider the numbers over the past 25 years: more than 1 million passengers flown to over 2,500 destinations; 6,700 active card owners; and revenue growth of 549 percent. Not to mention the company's expanding partnerships with luxury hotels and events, which offer 2024 perks valued at $225,000, and its sustainability program that offsets emissions 300 percent from each flight with no cost to clients (to date, Sentient has offset 1.34 million metric tons of carbon). *The 25-hour SJ25 Jet Card's base price is $174,375; the SJ25+ Card starts at $224,625.*

Time-Honoured Tradition

Davidoff's latest special-release cigar delivers sophisticated and nuanced flavours, all of which reflect the brand's commitment to a lengthy maturation of its celebrated tobacco.

Those who enjoy premium cigars are most likely familiar with the term "Maduro," but they may be surprised to learn that the term—at least as it relates to a Davidoff cigar—expresses more than just a cigar's colour or its intensity of flavour. Davidoff's latest special release, while pleasingly dark in appearance and alluringly full-bodied, is defined as much for its maturity. Simply put, the Davidoff Maduro is a masterpiece of time.

Consider first that the seductive, dark Ecuadorian leaf wrapper is taken from the crown of the tobacco plant, where it soaks up the most nourishment from the sun. More notably, this broad, unblemished leaf is picked from Corte #7—the highest grade of the tobacco plant that Davidoff uses. Given the tobacco's robust nature, the skilled craftspeople behind this cigar's creation have doubled the fermentation time to an impressive 16 months, which is followed by two years of careful ageing. The end result is a sweeter and more sophisticated cigar than other Maduros that have preceded it (more on this in a moment). This limited-release cigar is teeming with flavour. In fact, almost half of the Davidoff Maduro's enticing aroma can be traced back to this particular wrapper leaf and the painstaking methods used to condition it for production.

Despite all of the requisite pomp and circumstance, this isn't Davidoff's first Maduro. Longtime smokers and loyal supporters of the brand might remember the Maduro that Davidoff released back in 2008. Taking nothing away from the success of that particular creation, this new cigar simply features a more balanced blend and delivers a nuanced flavour profile that was crafted specifically for aficionados and experienced palates.

As for how the new Davidoff Maduro smokes, the cigar introduces itself with a creamy sweetness laced with dark chocolate notes, as well as hints of dried fruits and nuts. The sweet character of the cigar continues through the second third, albeit with a shift to a more honey-like character. The creamy nature of the smoke never wavers, though restrained traces of oak enter the fray. The final chapter in the enjoyment of this resplendent cigar is marked by a transition to spicier flavours, where earthy aromas laced with white pepper and roasted nuts create a deep and dynamic flavour that lingers on the finish.

Davidoff's new Maduro is available in three popular sizes: Toro, Robusto, and a Short Corona—perfect for those moments when time is limited.

Davidoff
MADURO
ROBUSTO
MADURO

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ELECTRIC AIRCRAFT

SURF AIR MOBILITY

SURF AIR MOBILITY is taking a multipronged approach to electrifying its regional fleet, with a program to retrofit existing Cessna Grand Caravans with its EP1 propulsion systems (both hybrid-electric and full electric) currently in development with AeroTEC, MagniX, and Textron. It will soon take delivery of 20 new Grand Caravans—which will also be converted—as the first installment of its order for 100 aircraft, while upgrading the rest of its fleet; Surf has also secured preferred delivery positions for 90 electric short takeoff and landing (eSTOL) commuter planes from Electra Aero. The plan is to lead the fast-approaching regional-air-mobility revolution, which McKinsey forecasts to be a $115 billion market by 2035. Surf's recent acquisition of Southern Airways Express makes it the country's largest commuter airline, as measured by the number of scheduled departures. In 2022, it carried 450,000 passengers to 48 cities. The stratospheric jump in short-hop flights, Surf predicts, will be driven by increasingly congested highways and high oil prices, offset by electric planes' lower operating costs and access to smaller airfields. For Surf, the electric revolution isn't imminent—it's already here.

SUSTAINABLE SOLUTION

PIASECKI

PA-890

PIASECKI'S PA-890 slow-rotor wing compound helicopter may not come with the catchiest name, but when a full-scale prototype begins test flights in 2028, it could be one of the most sustainable multi-mission aircraft on the planet. Buoyed by a $37 million U.S. Air Force development grant, the whirlybird-with-wings will be powered by a hydrogen fuel cell now being developed by partner ZeroAvia, giving it a respectable 200-mile range, and will have the capacity to carry a pilot and seven passengers, since one of its missions will be executive transport. Piasecki claims the PA-890 will reduce operating costs by 50 percent compared to current turbine helicopters—a bonus for owners. But what really excites us are the quieter operations and zero emissions, which make this stealth-looking aircraft a potential game changer for intracity and regional travel. *Pricing not yet announced*

CABIN CONNECTIVITY

SMARTSKY

LITE ATG

THE BATTLE FOR supremacy within the air-to-ground (ATG) space is hotly contested, and SmartSky was the first mover when it launched its nationwide 5G internet solution in July 2022.

Then, competitor Gogo had trouble bringing its 5G network online in 2023, leaving SmartSky to push forward with its unique services. With installations notched into the Beechcraft King Air 350, HondaJet, Cessna Citation Latitude, and most recently Citation CJ4 aircraft, along with many others, SmartSky differentiates with its ability to transmit above the ground noise. It streams data symmetrically, enabling Zoom calls, live streaming, and gaming. Its 60 MHz 5G/LTE creates more available spectrum, meaning fewer disconnects, and the system provides enough oomph to deliver weather and diagnostics data support to crew even as passengers use multiple devices. With its Flagship system already integrated into many business jets, plus a SmartSky LITE ATG technology across a wide range of general-aviation platforms, the first off the line has taken a galloping lead for the best in cabin connectivity. *Shipsets start at $59,999, plus installation and monthly data plans.*

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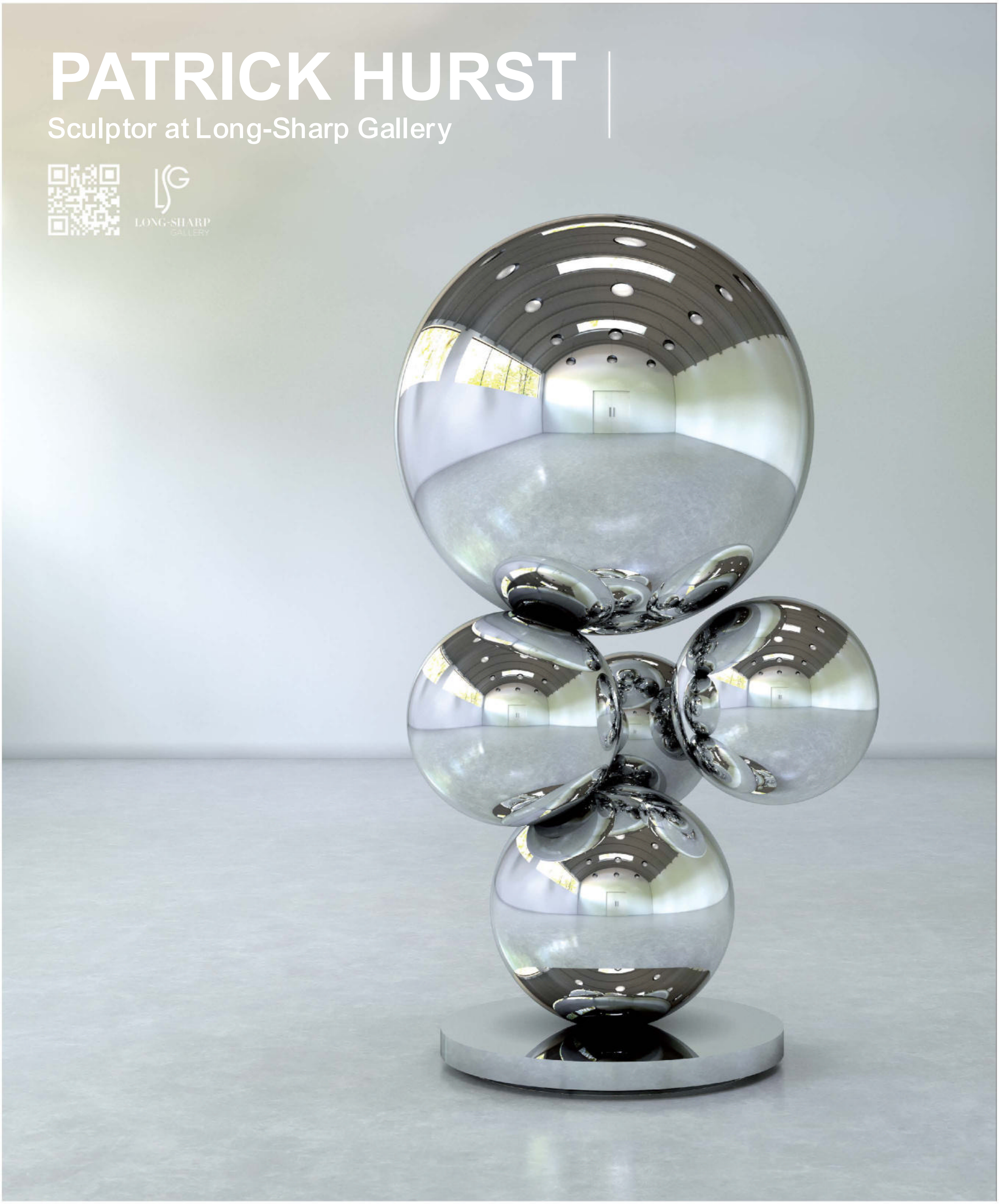
LAS VEGAS

PATRICK HURST

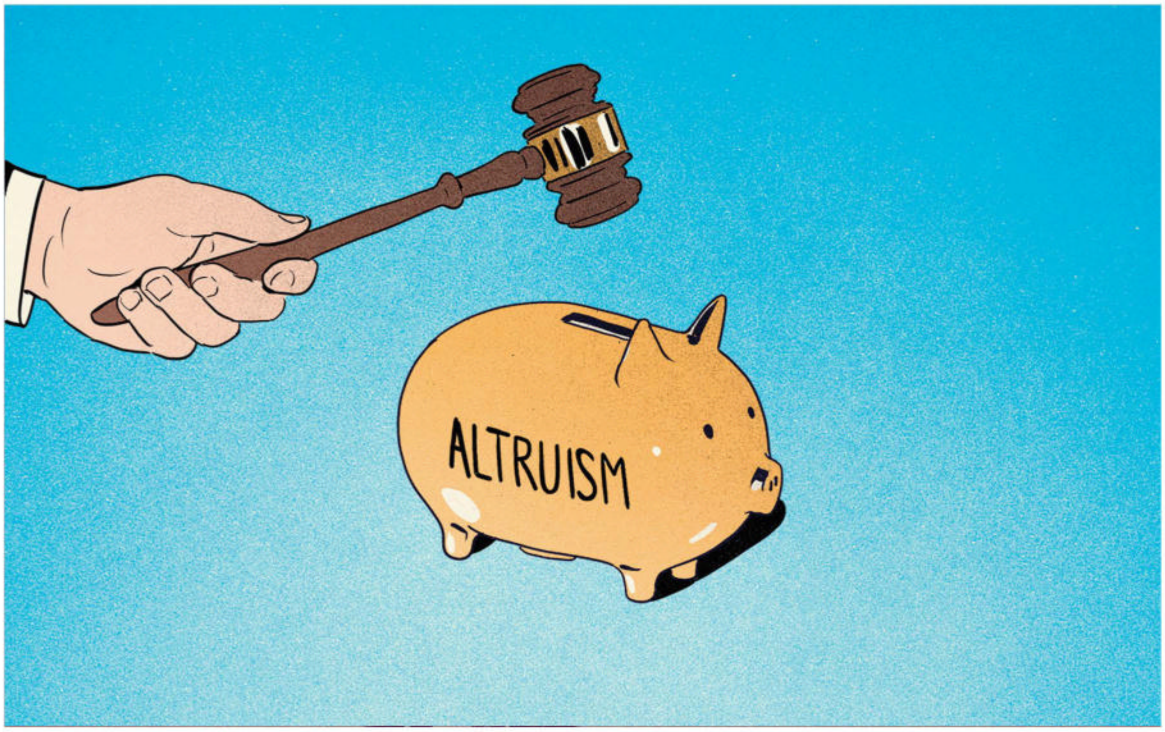
Sculptor at Long-Sharp Gallery



LONG-SHARP
GALLERY

Above: *We Are Water* © Patrick Hurst, 316 Stainless steel on 316 stainless steel base, 67.75 x 35.5 x 37.5 in (172.1 x 90.2 x 95.3 cm)

PHILANTHROPY



THE BIG IDEA

GIVING'S ROCKY YEAR

THE DOWNFALL OF fintech mogul Sam Bankman-Fried not only upended the cryptocurrency market, it also raised concerns about the future of effective altruism—a school of philanthropy that he embraced and that reportedly contributed to his fraudulent ways. Effective altruism espouses the idea that instead of giving your money to causes that you have a personal connection to (a hospital where a relative was treated, an alma mater) or one that tugs at your heartstrings—say, an earthquake in a developing country—you fund projects that have the highest potential for immediate and widespread impact, such as supplying mosquito nets to fight malaria. The movement encourages "earning to give," in which individuals pursue lucrative jobs—sometimes even predatory in nature—in order to dole out as much money as possible. Bankman-Fried would use "earning to give" as cloud cover when he started siphoning billions of dollars from his customers.

More recently, effective altruism has introduced another controversial idea with "longtermism," in which donors aim to help humanity's long-term prospects. The argument goes: Why save millions from malaria today when you could theoretically save billions of people yet to be born from, say, hostile A.I.?

This future-forward, quantitative thinking has piqued the interest of tech billionaires, including Elon Musk. While the math of longtermism might make sense to Silicon Valley's algorithm-happy set, critics charge that prioritizing future generations over people today is flawed. The approach, they argue, plays into the technocrat-as-savior complex, reenforcing the idea that certain individuals are uniquely capable of fixing the world of a century or a millennium hence. Moreover, this type of farsighted musing also neglects to address how certain power systems (and capitalism itself) have caused many of today's problems, from economic inequality to climate change, and it's the antithesis of the trust-based philanthropy practiced by MacKenzie Scott, who distributes her billions with no strings attached.

Despite SBF's criminality, effective altruism, which focuses on issues such as global poverty and health, continues to attract megadonors, chief among them Facebook cofounder Dustin Moskovitz, who adhere to its data-driven principles. Moskovitz and his wife, Cari Tuna, created Good Ventures and cofounded Open Philanthropy, which are projected to donate over $750 million this year alone. SBF may spend the next quarter-century in prison, but the movement he helped make famous may still be around when he gets out.

ILLUSTRATION BY Emmanuel Polanco

FEMALE EMPOWERMENT

TSITSI MASIYIWA

TSITSI MASIYIWA, the wife of Zimbabwe's richest man, telecommunications magnate Strive Masiyiwa, cofounded Delta Philanthropies with her husband to address education, health, and economic opportunity in developing countries, and she sits on the boards of several social-impact organizations, including the End Fund, which focuses on eradicating tropical diseases. But it's her work with the Africa Gender Initiative (AGI), which she launched in late 2022, that may be closest to her heart.

As the youngest of five girls and the mother of five daughters, Masiyiwa knows firsthand about the systemic discrimination against women and girls across the continent—even from her privileged perch. AGI aims to build gender parity by investing in human capital and allowing women more access to education, rights to land, and financial resources in order to create a more sustainable and equitable future for all.

JOURNALISM

JOHN PALFREY

SINCE 2005, SOME 2,500 local U.S. newspapers have shuttered, leaving nearly one in five Americans in "news deserts," according to Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism. Concerned about the dearth of independent reporting as well as the rise of misinformation (and disinformation) on the internet, John Palfrey, a longtime educator and legal scholar and current president of the MacArthur Foundation, famed for its "genius grants," recently established Press Forward, an initiative to support journalism in communities across the country.

More than 20 initial donors have pledged $500 million over the next five years to fund outlets that are working to produce rigorously reported news with a nonpartisan approach. That major-donor list has since grown to 57. And Palfrey harbors even bigger ambitions: He hopes to raise an even billion, encouraging all Americans to support the news the way they do other nonprofits—or at least subscribe to it à la Netflix.

TRUST-BASED PHILANTHROPY

DIANA BLANK & DENA KIMBALL

THE FORMER WIFE of Home Depot cofounder Arthur Blank, Diana Blank established the Kendeda Fund in 1993 and spent the next 30 years donating over $1 billion to various causes, from women's rights to gun violence to the environment—much of it anonymously. The 81-year-old Blank was an early pioneer in "trust-based" philanthropy, empowering grant recipients to use the money effectively.

In 2012, Blank's elder daughter, Dena Kimball, joined the effort as executive director and helped Blank fulfill her final mission: to "spend out," donating the remainder of Kendeda's assets in the hope of having the greatest possible impact in the here and now. The fund closed shop in December 2023 but still advises other charitable organizations on how to disperse all of their assets rather than drip-feed grants over generations.

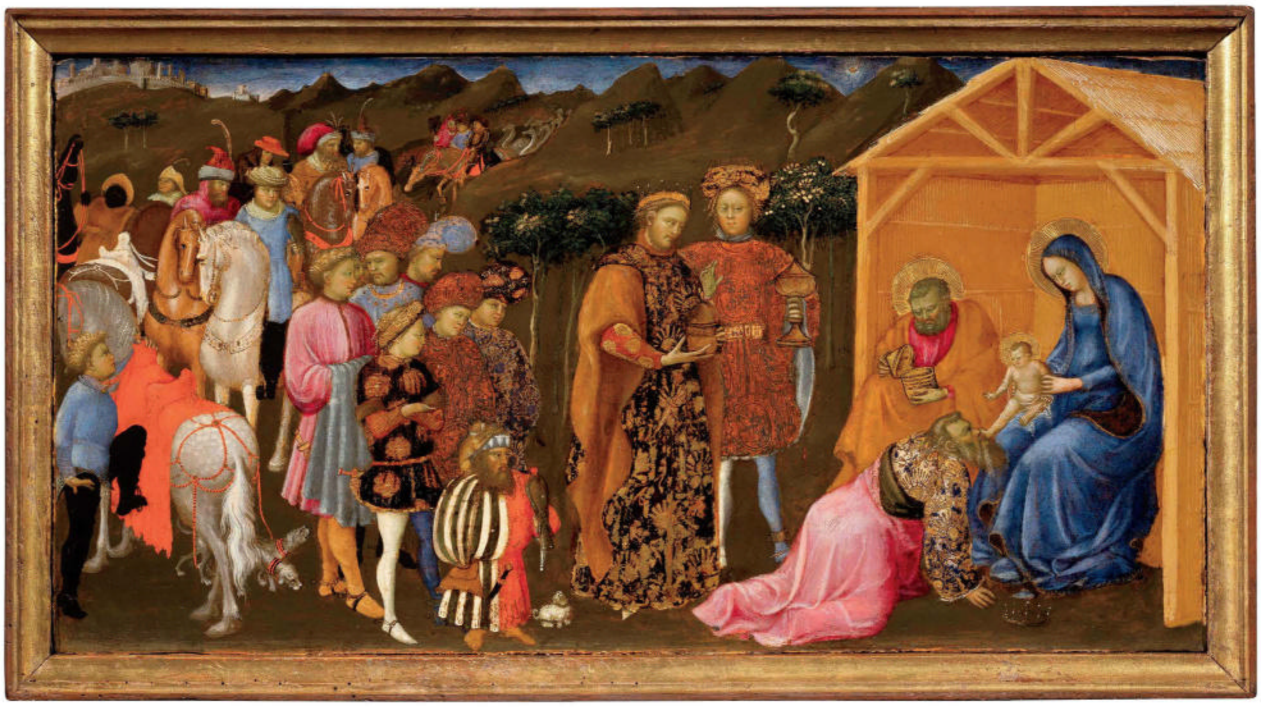
TSITSI MASIYIWA: MICHAEL AUSTEN/FORBES COLLECTION/CORBIS/GETTY IMAGES

ART

RICHARD HEDREEN

SEATTLE-BASED REAL-ESTATE developer Richard Hedreen and his wife, Betty, were major art collectors with a sweeping approach, acquiring works from the 15th century on up to the present. Betty died in 2022, and Hedreen honored her this year by giving their world-class trove to Seattle University, her alma mater. Valued at $300 million, it is the largest gift of art ever donated to a U.S. university.

The couple had gifted artworks to the school previously and helped fund the construction of a campus chapel designed by Steven Holl. But their collection, which includes works by artists as disparate as Titian, Willem de Kooning, and Amy Sherald, will lay the foundation for the small Jesuit college's first art museum, for which Hedreen has also pledged another $25 million of seed money.



Giovanni Toscani (1371-1430), *Adoration of the Magi*

GIOVANNI TOSCANI: COURTESY OF RICHARD HEDREEN; RUTH GOTTESMAN: BRENT N. CLARKE/GETTY IMAGES

MEDICAL EDUCATION

RUTH GOTTESMAN

EARLIER THIS YEAR when 94-year-old Ruth Gottesman announced that she was giving $1 billion to the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the Bronx, the audience erupted into cheers. Some attendees wept openly. Their reaction was understandable: The seats were filled with the school's med students, and Gottesman stipulated the donation would ensure that tuition for all current and future students would be free—in perpetuity.

While it's common for major donors to give to hospitals in the far wealthier borough of Manhattan, Gottesman, whose late husband bequeathed her the fortune, is an outlier for endowing the less flashy Albert Einstein: As a professor emerita there and chair of the board of trustees, she knew that the institution sorely needed it. As tuition has soared, loans have become cost-prohibitive for some would-be doctors, and many of those who attend Albert Einstein are from modest backgrounds, including a high proportion who are children of immigrants. Nearly half graduate more than $200,000 in debt. Gottesman's gift is believed to be the largest ever to a medical school. The cherry on top? She stipulated the school could not change its name.

THE COSMOS

FRANKLIN ANTONIO

AS ONE OF THE founders and chief scientists of Qualcomm, a California chipmaker, Franklin Antonio was known for his forward thinking. When he died suddenly in 2022, at the age of 69, he left $200 million to the SETI (Search for Extraterrestrial Life) Institute, a research organization based in Mountain View, Calif., that is also funded in part by NASA.

In addition to enabling the institute to expand its exploration, the money will establish fellowships and grants for science and education programs. Though the search for other life in the universe might seem out there (so to speak), Antonio believed that science matters. He also bequeathed another $200 million to the Summer Science Program, a North Carolina–based nonprofit for exceptional high-school students, which he once attended.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

CRYSTAL HAYLING

AS A SOUTHERN Black woman educated at Yale and Stanford, Crystal Hayling knows how to straddle different worlds. This year, Hayling will retire from the Libra Foundation, a San Francisco–based organization founded by a branch of the Pritzker family, where she dispersed nearly $200 million during her six-year tenure as executive director, capping a 32-year career in philanthropy.

Hayling disrupted the traditional top-down philanthropic model in favor of a grassroots approach, trusting those closest to the problems to devise solutions. Over her long career, Hayling had an impact on issues ranging from domestic-violence prevention to health care, but perhaps her most significant legacy is using her voice to rally support for more BIPOC-led nonprofits over the long term rather than just in the wake of the racial-injustice reckoning following George Floyd's murder.

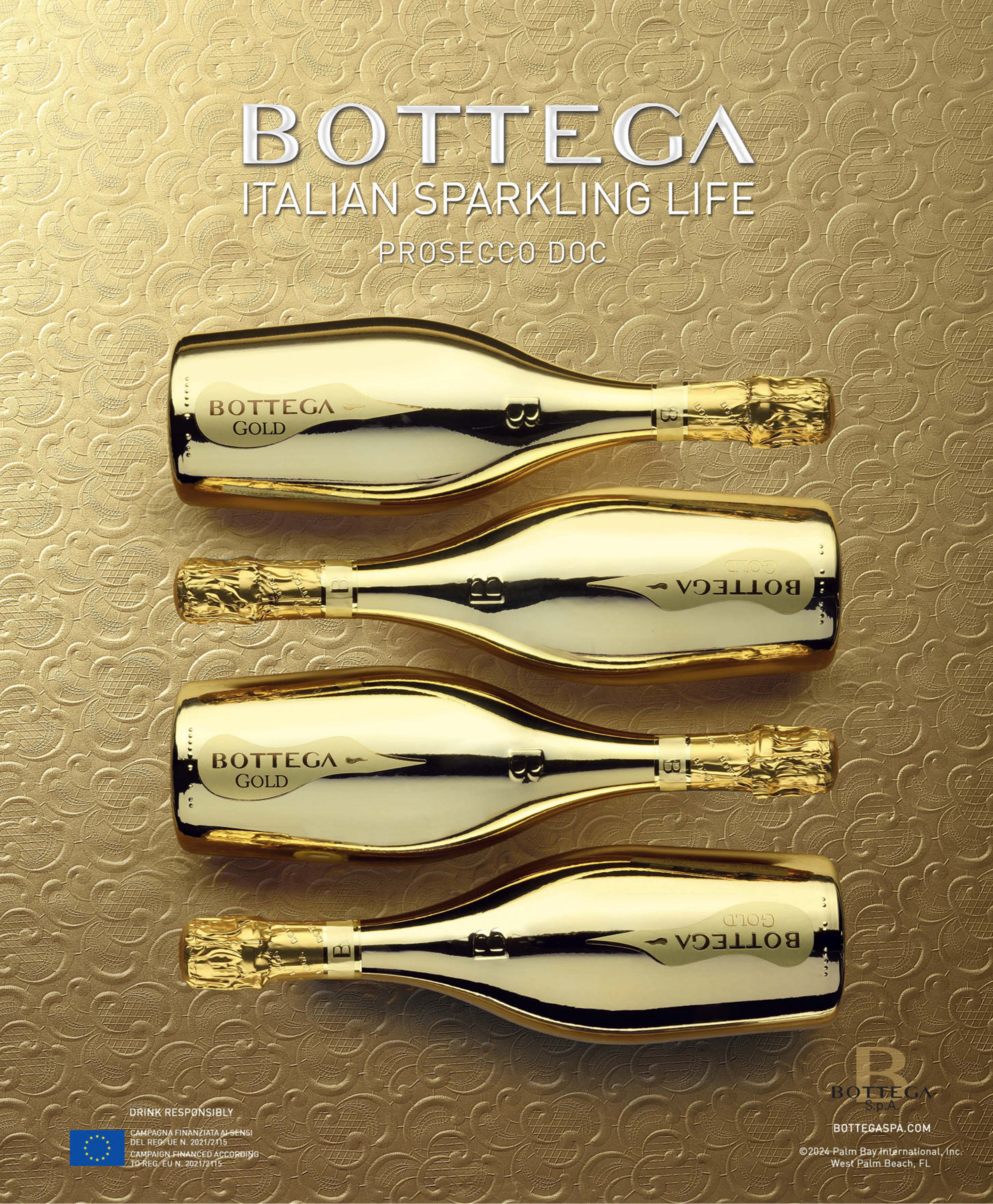
BEQUEST

MICHAEL BLOOMBERG

FORMER NEW YORK CITY mayor Michael Bloomberg has long been a force in pathbreaking philanthropy. His largesse has helped his alma mater, Johns Hopkins University, renounce legacy admissions, and he has funded programs in the arts, the environment, education, public health, and government innovation. In 2023 alone, the 82-year-old businessman gave away $3 billion, making him the biggest donor in American philanthropy last year. (Runners-up Phil and Penny Knight reportedly contributed less than half that figure, at $1.24 billion.)

An original signatory to the Giving Pledge, Bloomberg also announced that before or upon his death, he will donate all of his shares in Bloomberg LP, the financial-media company he started in 1981, to a charitable trust that will in turn fund his foundation, Bloomberg Philanthropies. Though the exact value of his stake is unclear, his net worth is estimated to be around $106 billion, meaning the donation could end up being the largest private philanthropic contribution ever, and his foundation the biggest in the nation.

MICHAEL BLOOMBERG: SLAVEN VLASIC/GETTY IMAGES/TRIBECA FILM FESTIVAL; CRYSTAL HAYLING: JARED SISKIN/PATRICK MCMULLAN/GETTY IMAGES; SATELLITE: UNSPLASH.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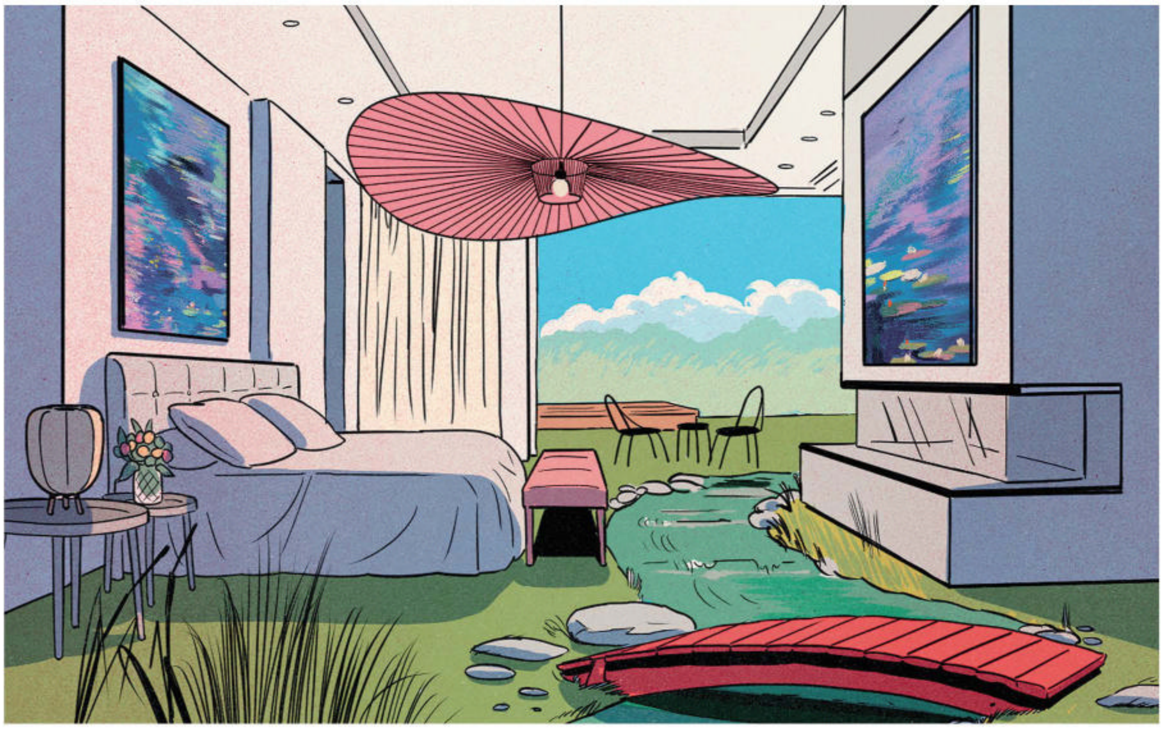


THE BIG IDEA

RESILIENT IN THE EXTREME

PRIORITIZING SUSTAINABILITY in an effort to fend off climate change has become mainstream across the design industry. But what can architects do when the planet seems to turn against us anyway? The acceleration of global warming and its adverse effects—wildfires, droughts, flooding, and other natural disasters—is bringing to the forefront an approach to architecture that, while not new, is rapidly gaining a following around the world. Resilient design aims to mitigate the impact of external threats via inventive solutions.

Think of resilient design as a cousin to sustainability: The two are linked, but not the same. “Sustainability is about how you establish something regenerative by using resources in an appropriate, ideally net-zero, way,” says Seattle architect Robert Hutchinson. “Resiliency is the ability to take on or counteract an event,” whether a short-term disaster or long-term stressors.

In essence, resilient design examines the environmental situation in a particular region and innovates ways to lessen harmful effects. One of Hutchinson’s projects, located in central Mexico and designed with architect and homeowner Javier Sanchez, is an off-the-grid residence within a nature reserve without connection to municipal water. The area has wet summers but extremely dry winters; anticipating yearly water needs, Hutchinson and Sanchez created a reservoir that fills up during the rainy season and stores enough water to get the family through the winter.

Elsewhere, architects are responding to other disasters encroaching on the built environment. In Beirut, architect Lina Ghotmeh designed the Stone Garden apartment block using a reinforced-concrete structure with a combed earth-and-concrete facade for protection during earthquakes. (Despite some minor damage, the building withstood the 2020 port explosion that devastated the city.) In New Orleans, Mithūn’s Louisiana Children’s Museum, constructed after Hurricane Katrina, sits at the edge of a lagoon, but the architects allowed for potential water incursion by elevating the building above the flood plain atop deeply set piles. Meanwhile, Nigerian architect Kunlé Adeyemi, of Amsterdam-based firm NLÉ, has developed a flexible prototype system of connectable floating pods made with prefabricated timber that adapt to changing river, lake, and sea levels, making it possible to build affordable structures on water.

Hutchinson and Sanchez often discuss how the concepts used in their residential design might be scaled to help municipalities including Mexico City, which is experiencing one of the severest droughts in its history. “As architects,” he says, “we have to be the ones to try to enact change.”

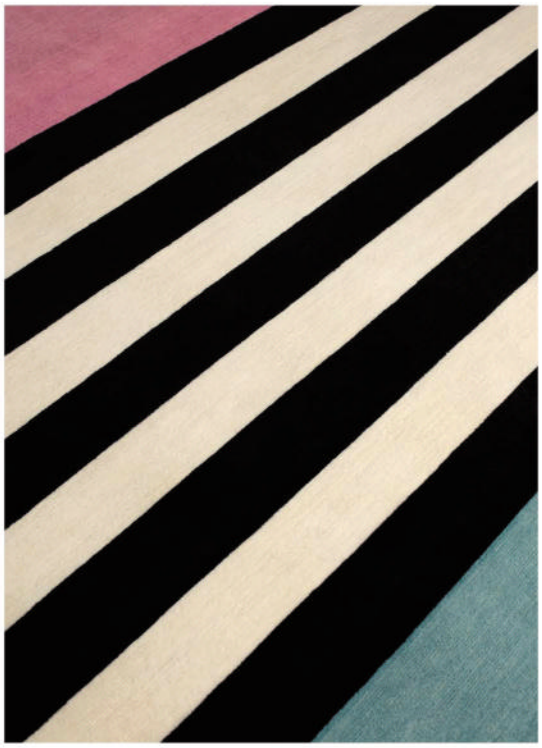
ILLUSTRATION BY Emmanuel Polanco

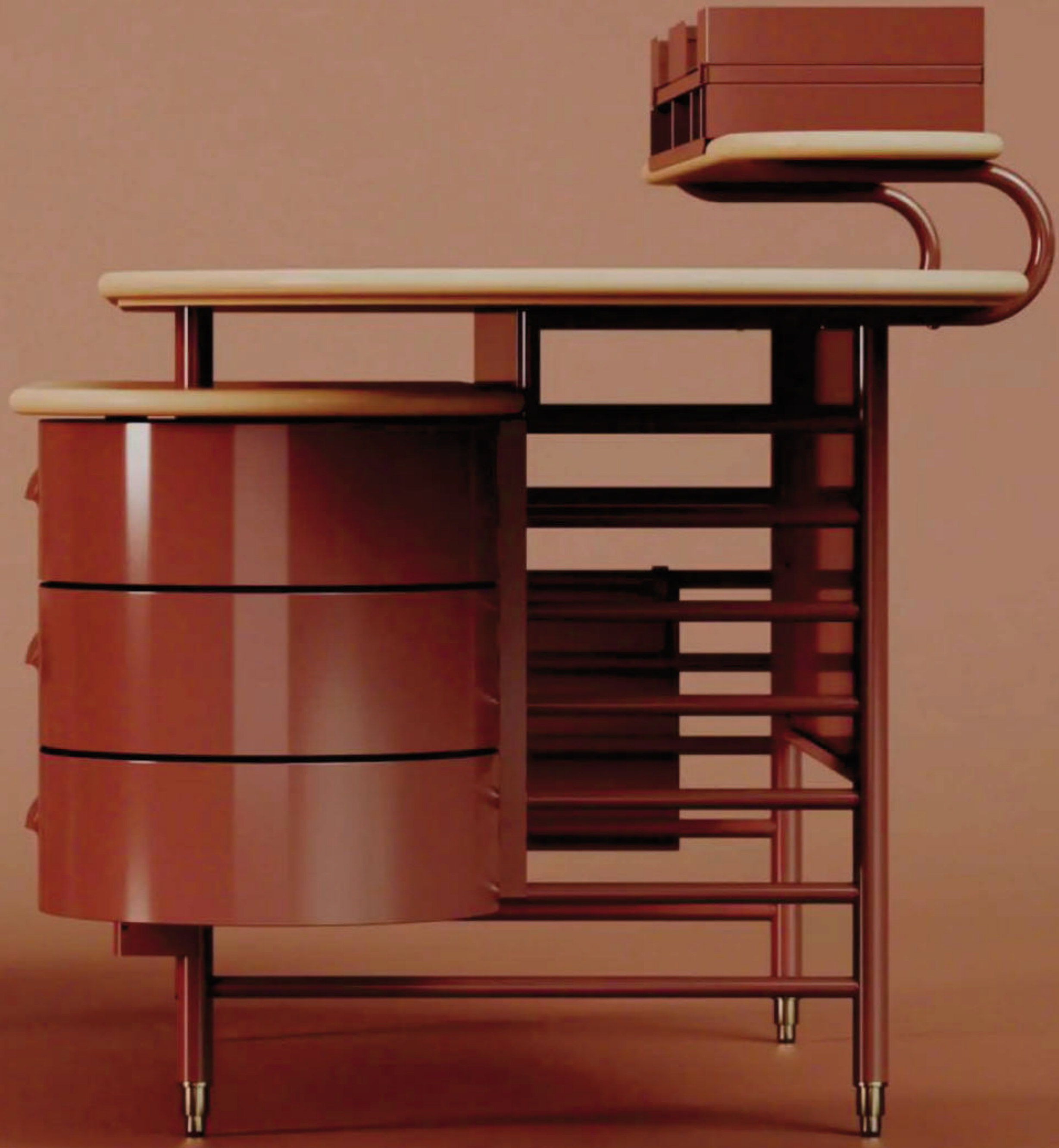
RUG

CC-TAPIS

Les Arcs Collection by Charlotte Perriand

KNOWN FOR HER modernist work and belief that better design can improve society, Charlotte Perriand, who died in 1999 at the age of 96, remains among the most celebrated names in the industry. One project, the design of Les Arcs ski resort in the French Alps, on which Perriand worked for more than 20 years, was meant to include a set of striped textile panels, but due to a tightened budget, they ultimately fell by the wayside. The drawings for these textiles stayed filed away at the Perriand archives in Paris for more than 50 years—until 2023, when CC-Tapis launched Les Arcs Collection, consisting of five hand-knotted rugs featuring the previously unseen color studies by the French architect. *From $6,880*



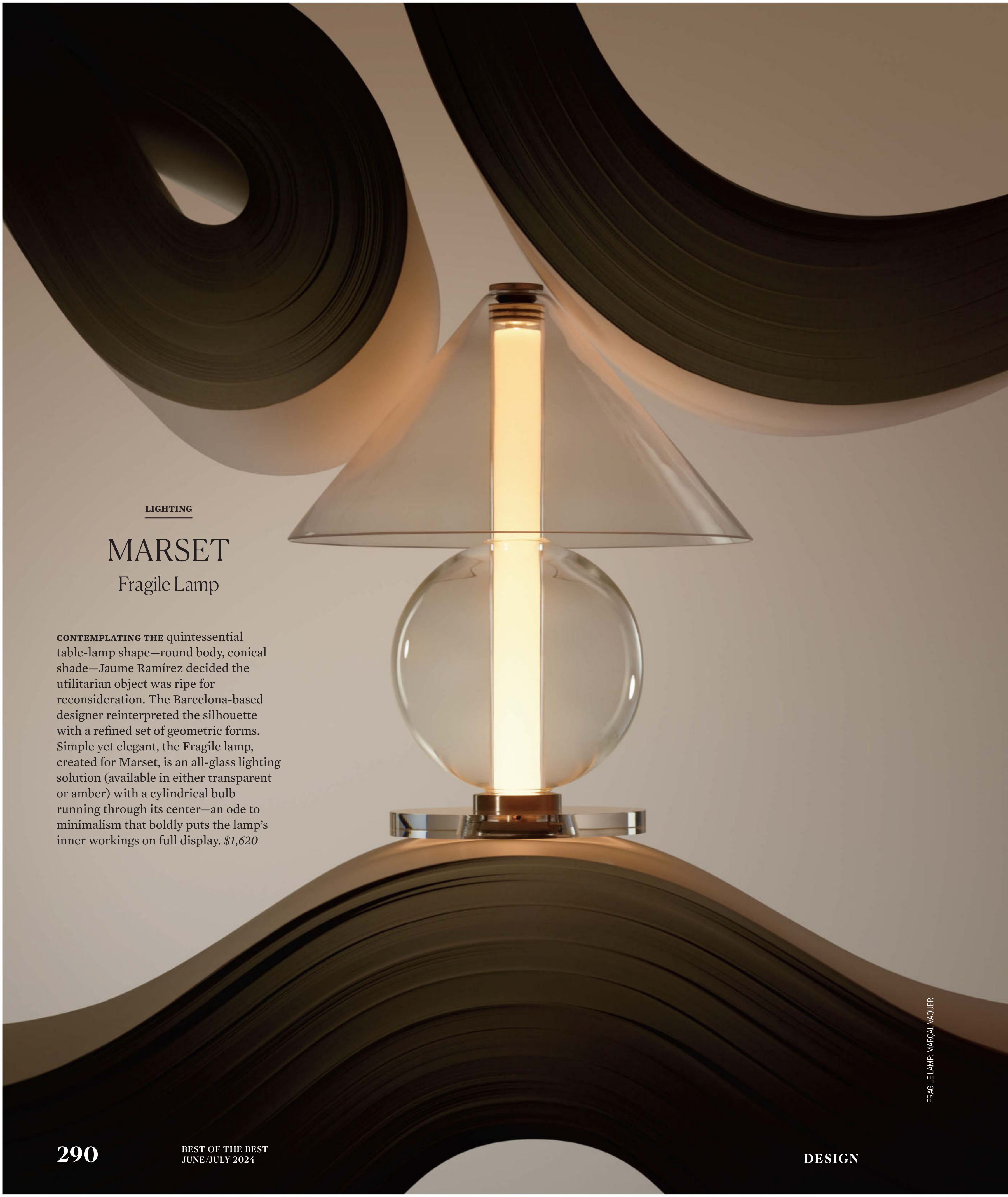


DESK

FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT BY STEELCASE

Racine Signature Desk

A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN two great names in American design, the Frank Lloyd Wright Racine Signature desk by Steelcase reimagines the 1939 piece conceived by Wright for the SC Johnson administration building in Racine, Wisc. Originally produced by Steelcase and part of a larger reintroduction in collaboration with the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation, the Racine Signature desk, with its multitiered surfaces and trifecta of drawers, remains as stylishly functional in the work-from-home era as it was in the age of manual typewriters. *$11,050*



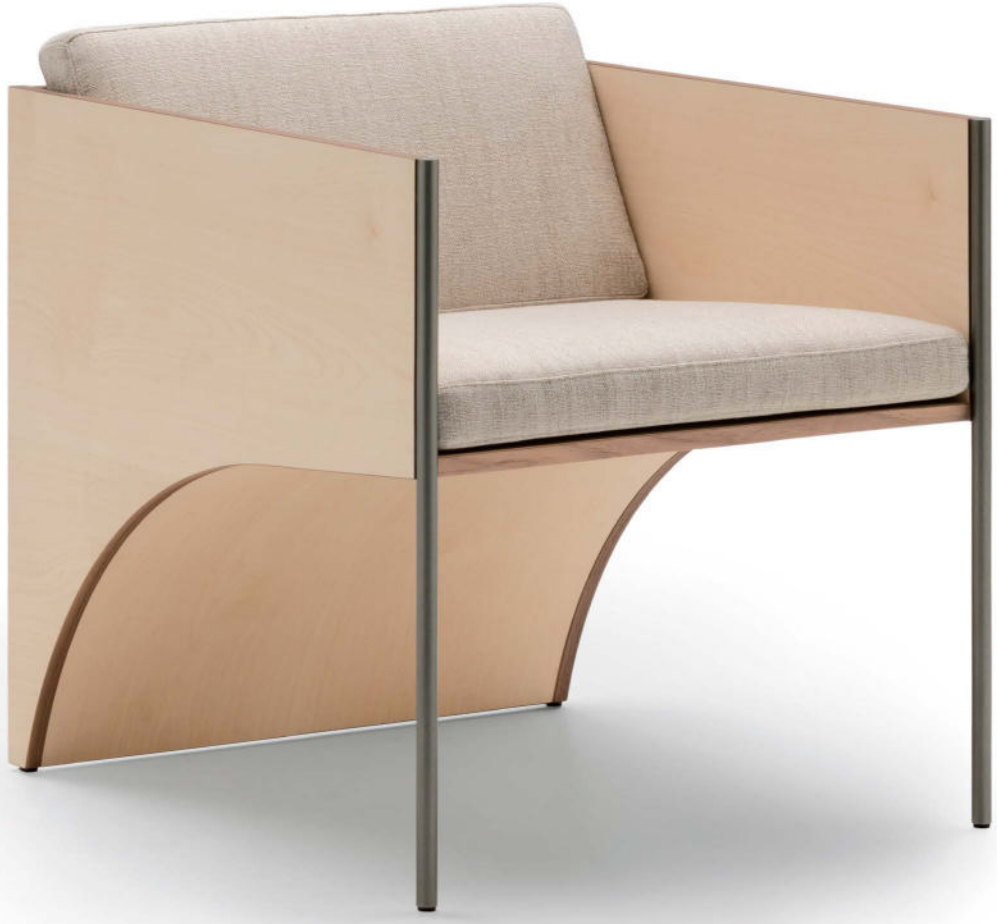
LIGHTING

MARSET

Fragile Lamp

CONTEMPLATING THE quintessential table-lamp shape—round body, conical shade—Jaume Ramírez decided the utilitarian object was ripe for reconsideration. The Barcelona-based designer reinterpreted the silhouette with a refined set of geometric forms. Simple yet elegant, the Fragile lamp, created for Marset, is an all-glass lighting solution (available in either transparent or amber) with a cylindrical bulb running through its center—an ode to minimalism that boldly puts the lamp's inner workings on full display. *$1,620*

FRAGILE LAMP: MARÇAL VAQUER



CHAIR

LIVING DIVANI

Ark Armchair

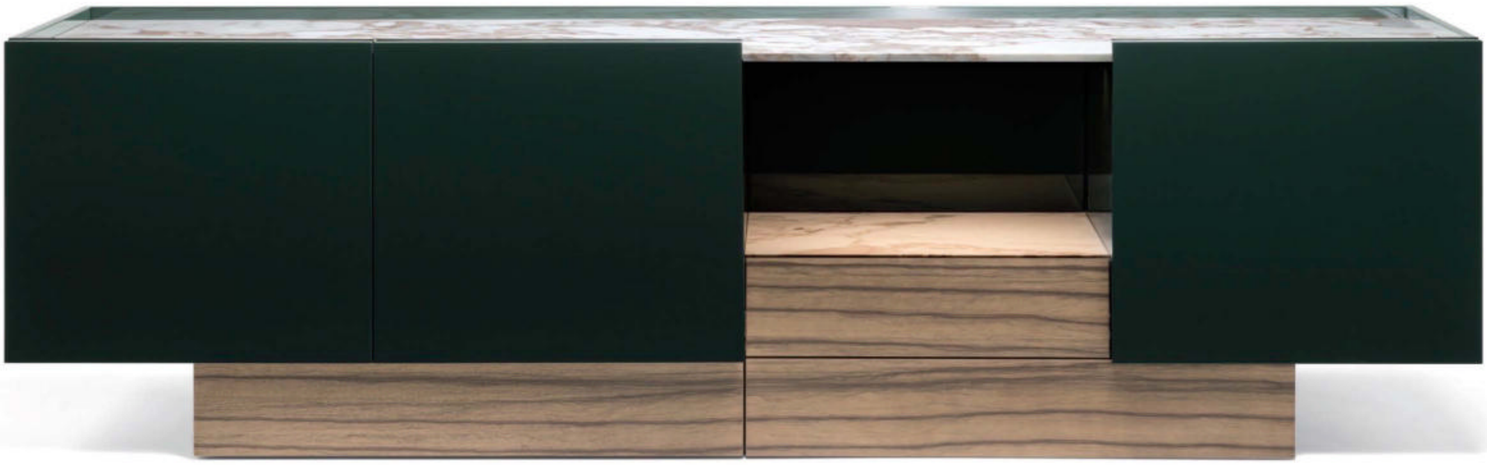
THE LATEST IN an ongoing collaboration between designer David Lopez Quincoces and Italian brand Living Divani, the Ark chair is a sculptural piece of furniture that encapsulates Quincoces's bold, graphic style and interest in experimentation. A study in composition, the chair balances straight lines with curves, a heavy back with thin legs, and soft surfaces with steel and wood. For Quincoces, who also runs Milan's Six Gallery with his partner, Fanny Bauer Grung (part of their architectural office Quincoces-Dragò & Partners), the idea was to create an "armchair-object" that goes beyond just another place to sit. Mission accomplished. *Price upon request*

CABINET

MOLTENI&C

Archway Sideboard

DESIGNED BY THE late Milanese architect and designer Rodolfo Dordoni for Molteni&C, the Archway sideboard is a treasure trove of discovery. Made with a sunken Calacatta-marble top, lacquered sides, and a wooden shelf (all customizable), the cabinet opens to reveal a beautifully lacquered interior. Its integrated handles are cut at a 45-degree angle for ease of use—an attention to detail that marked Dordoni's work. *$22,695*

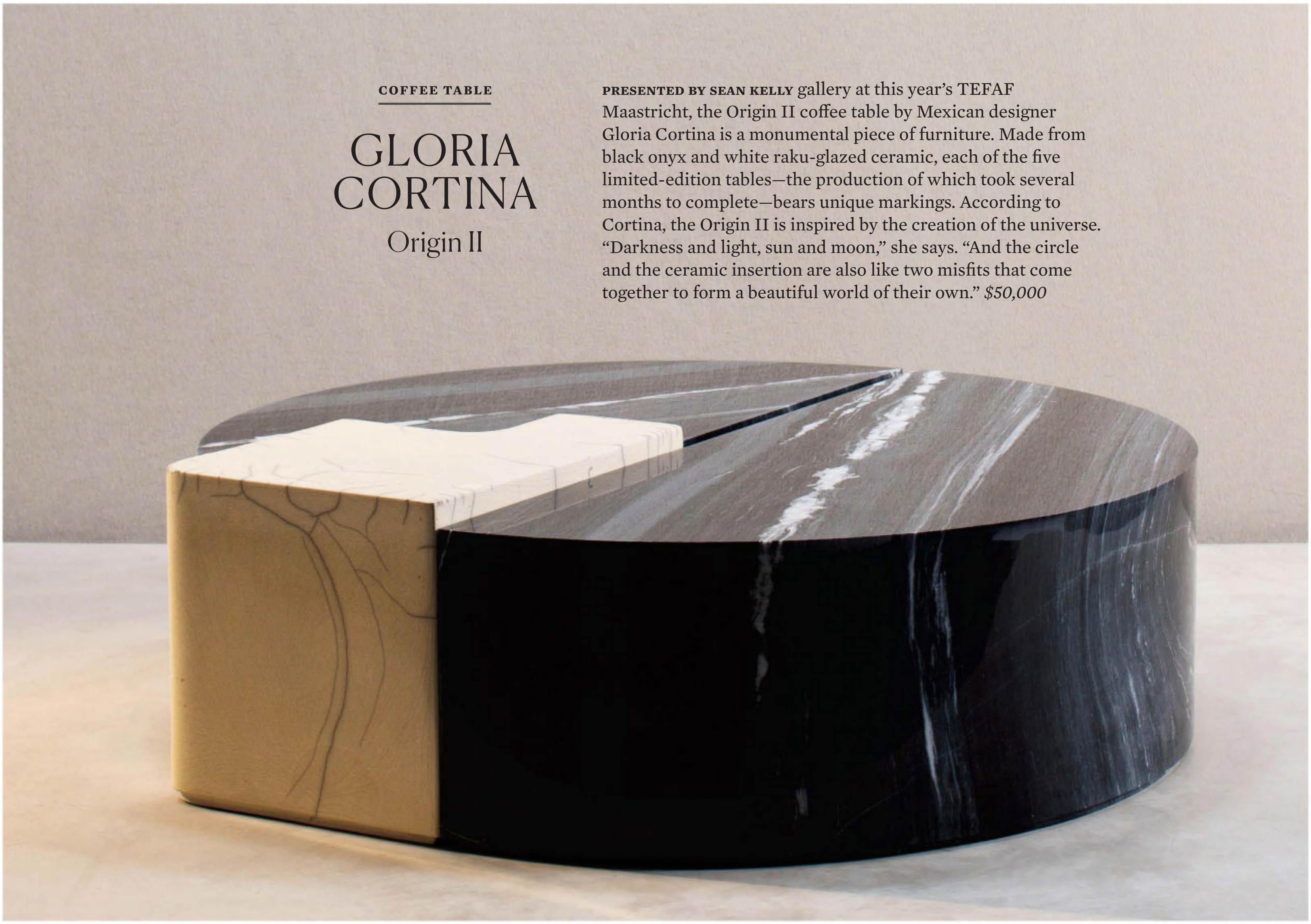


COFFEE TABLE

GLORIA CORTINA

Origin II

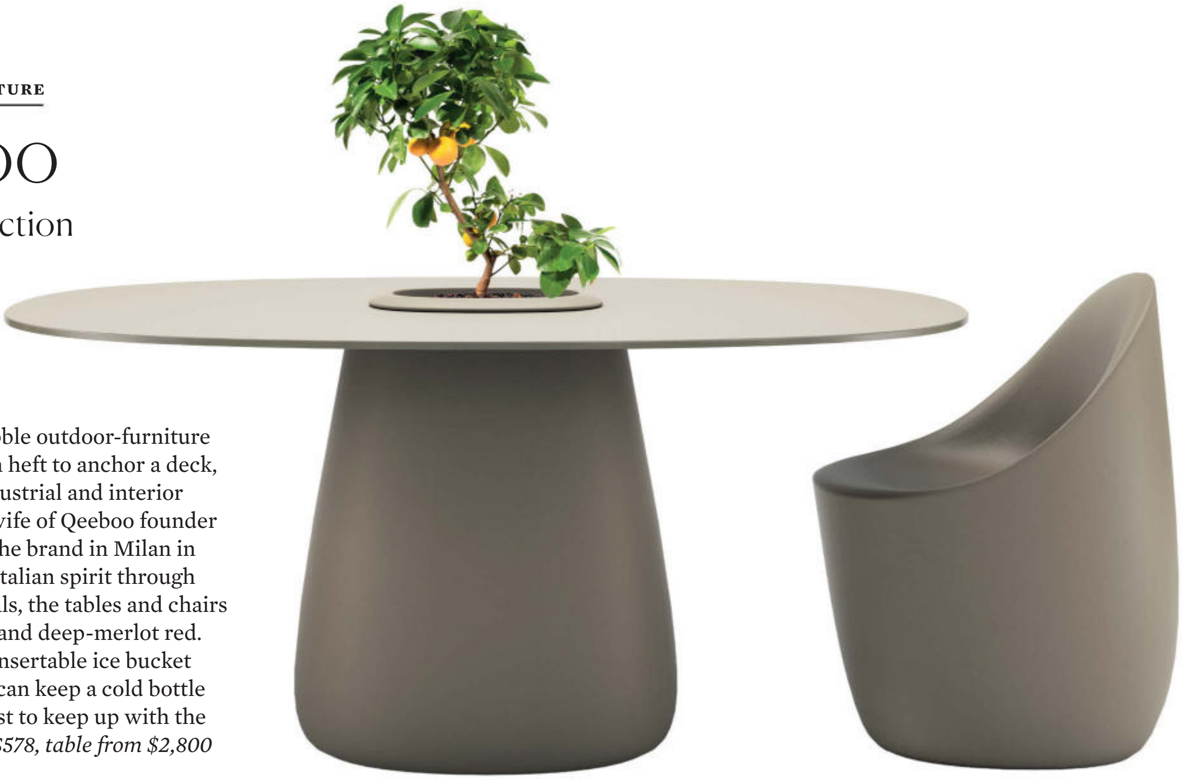
PRESENTED BY SEAN KELLY gallery at this year's TEFAF Maastricht, the Origin II coffee table by Mexican designer Gloria Cortina is a monumental piece of furniture. Made from black onyx and white raku-glazed ceramic, each of the five limited-edition tables—the production of which took several months to complete—bears unique markings. According to Cortina, the Origin II is inspired by the creation of the universe. "Darkness and light, sun and moon," she says. "And the circle and the ceramic insertion are also like two misfits that come together to form a beautiful world of their own." *$50,000*



OUTDOOR FURNITURE

QEEBOO

Cobble Collection



QEEBOO'S DURABLE, weatherproof Cobble outdoor-furniture set is sleek and inviting, with enough heft to anchor a deck, patio, or pool area. Developed by industrial and interior designer Elisa Gargan Giovannoni (wife of Qeeboo founder Stefano Giovannoni, who launched the brand in Milan in 2016), the pieces invoke the playful Italian spirit through form and color: In addition to neutrals, the tables and chairs are available in a juicy citrus orange and deep-merlot red. The table even has an option for an insertable ice bucket (or plant holder) if you wish, so you can keep a cold bottle handy—a solution that allows the host to keep up with the table-side conversation. *Chair from $578, table from $2,800*

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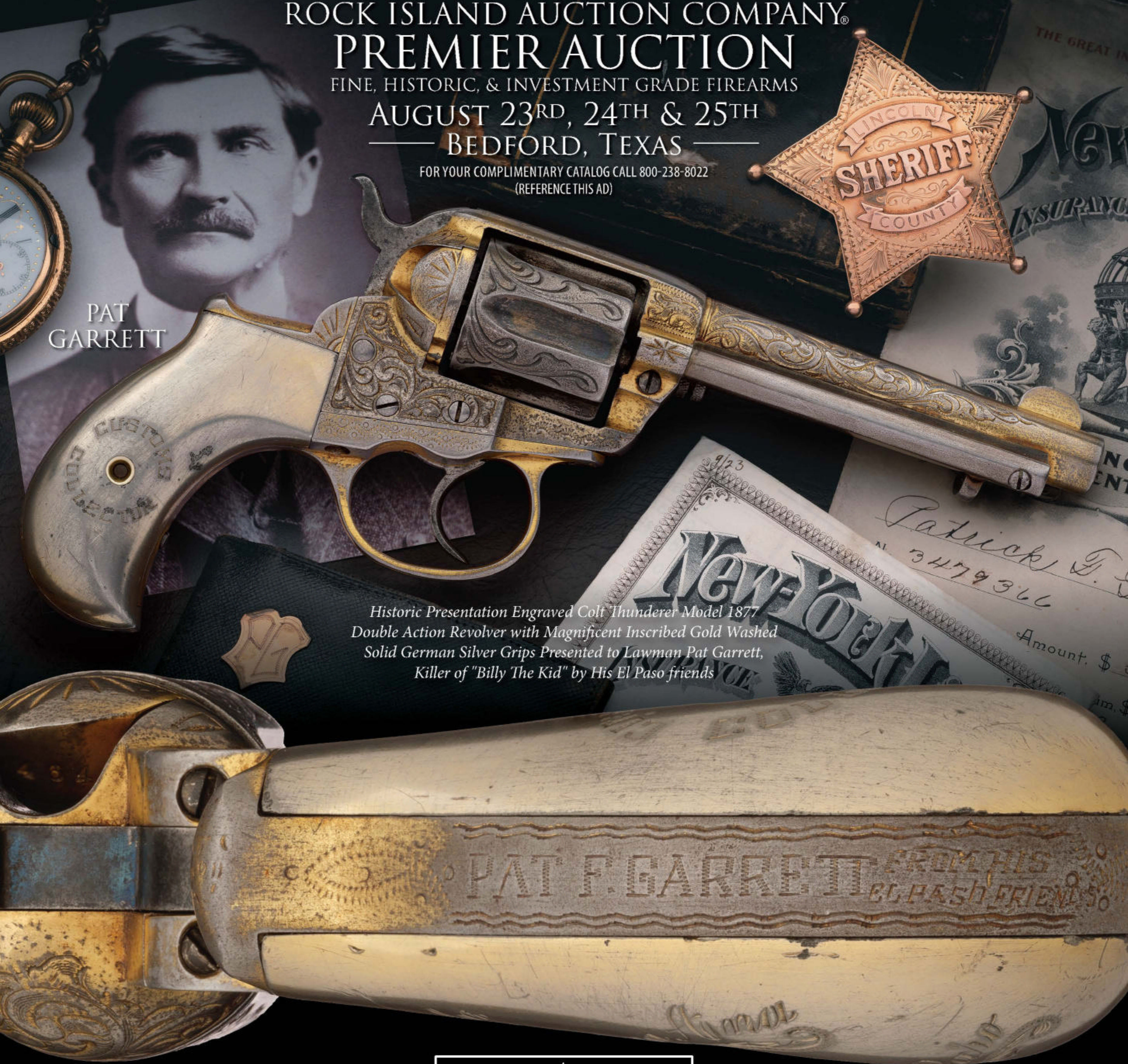

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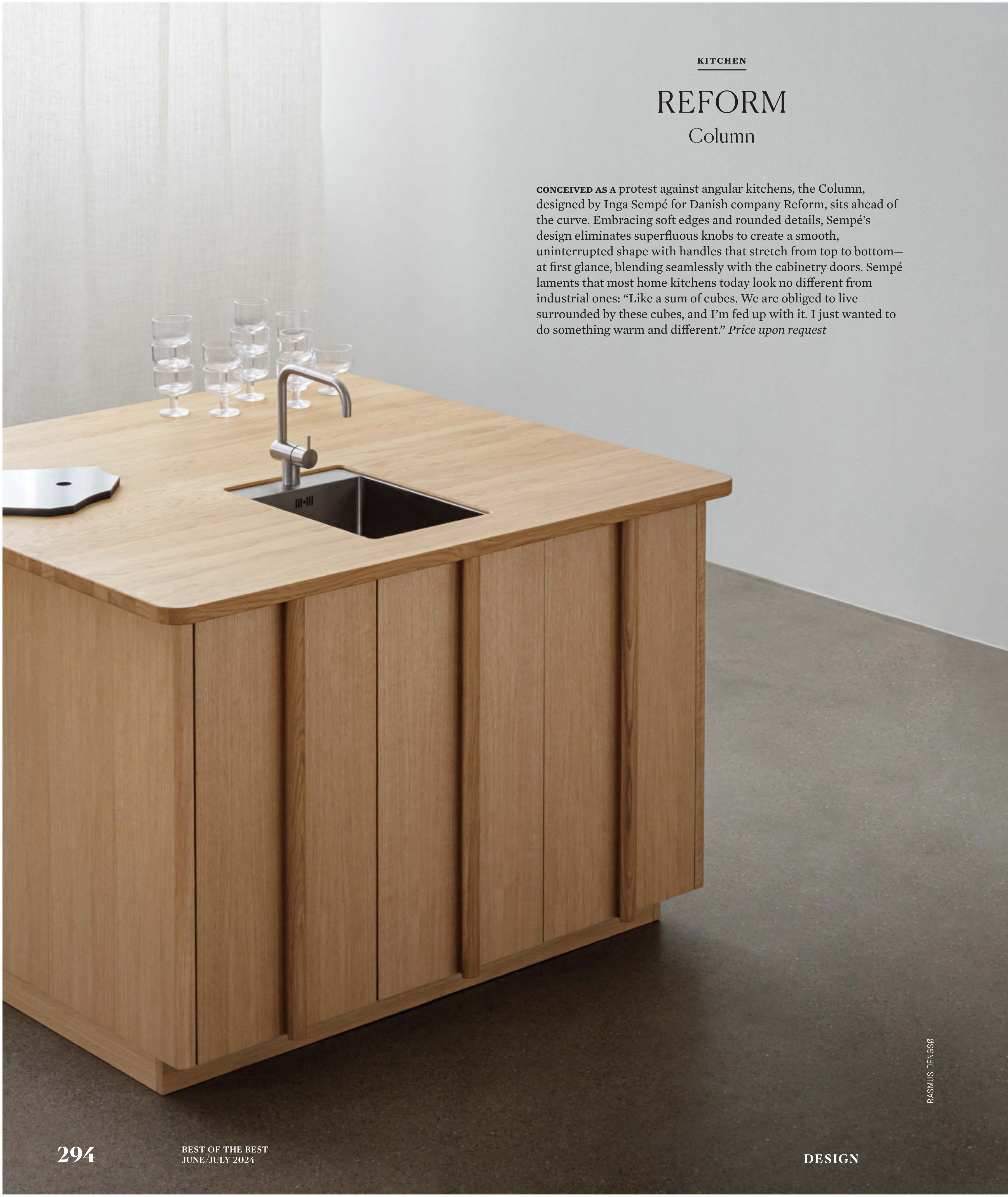


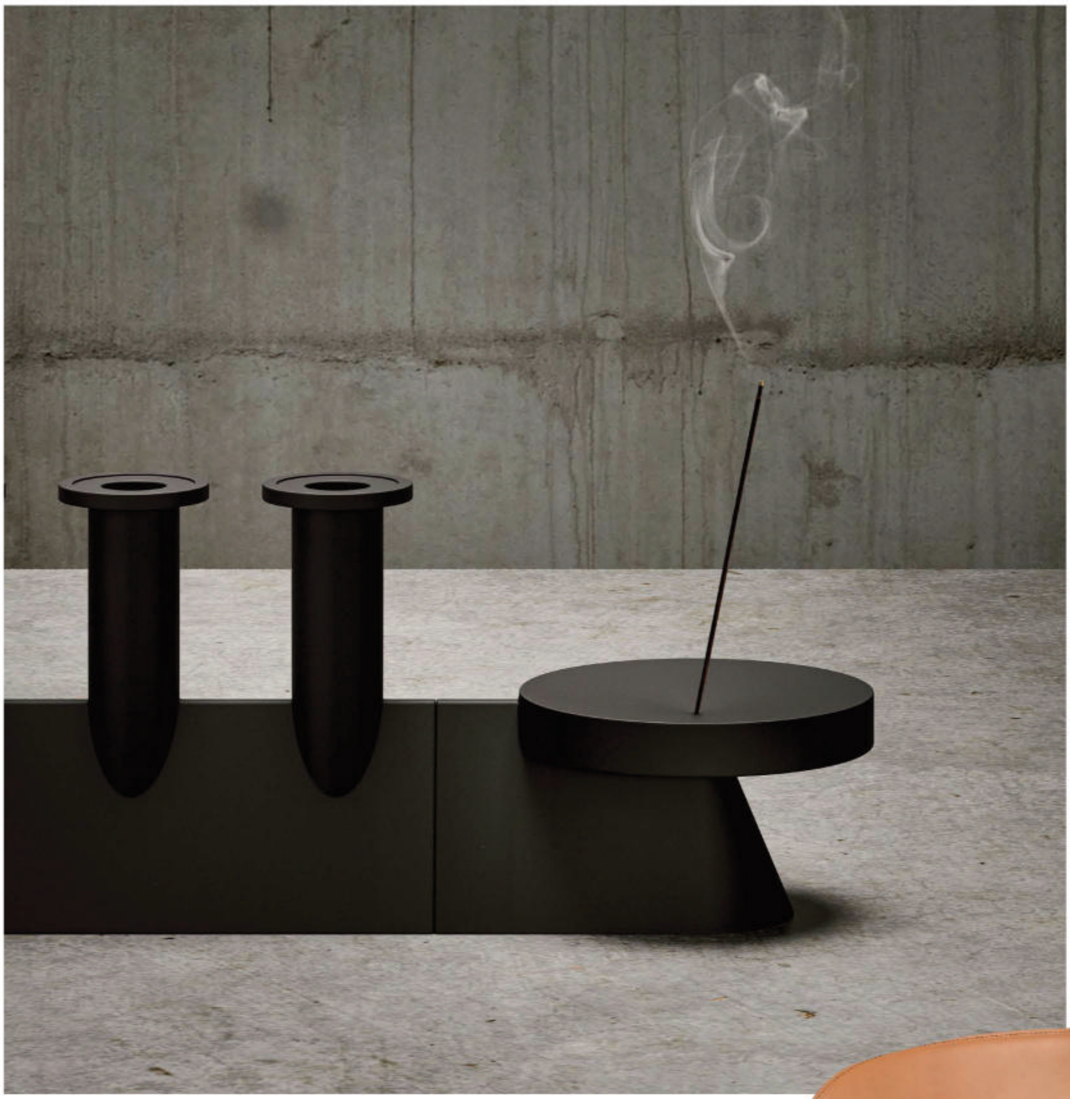
KITCHEN

REFORM

Column

CONCEIVED AS A protest against angular kitchens, the Column, designed by Inga Sempé for Danish company Reform, sits ahead of the curve. Embracing soft edges and rounded details, Sempé's design eliminates superfluous knobs to create a smooth, uninterrupted shape with handles that stretch from top to bottom—at first glance, blending seamlessly with the cabinetry doors. Sempé laments that most home kitchens today look no different from industrial ones: "Like a sum of cubes. We are obliged to live surrounded by these cubes, and I'm fed up with it. I just wanted to do something warm and different." *Price upon request*

RASMUS DENGSØ

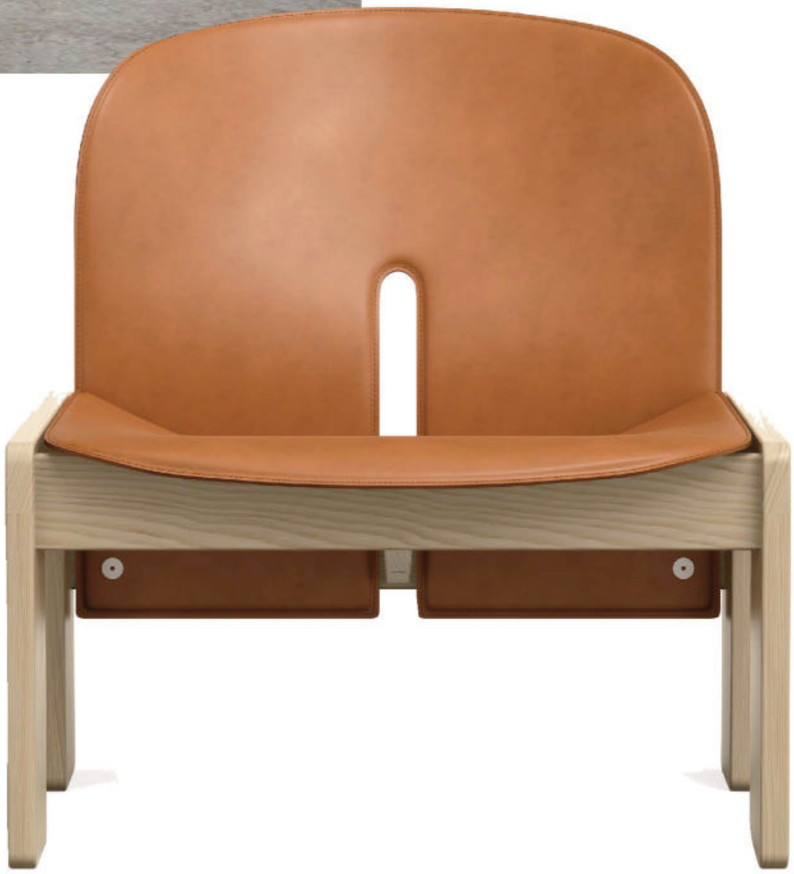


ACCESSORY

PULKRA

Compage Collection

A MODULAR SYSTEM of concrete table accessories, the Compage set was designed by Martinelli Venezia for Pulkra. Inspired by the Latin root of the word "compage," meaning "structure, union," the designers created the collection with the idea that its individual elements—two trays, a candelabra, and an incense holder—could be displayed in different configurations based on the personality and style of the owner. Meditative to look at (the smooth surfaces and thinness of the material come from Pulkra's processing technique) and even more so to arrange, Compage showcases the potential of a humble material through graceful forms and thoughtful composition. *$1,405 for the set*



REISSUE

KARAKTER

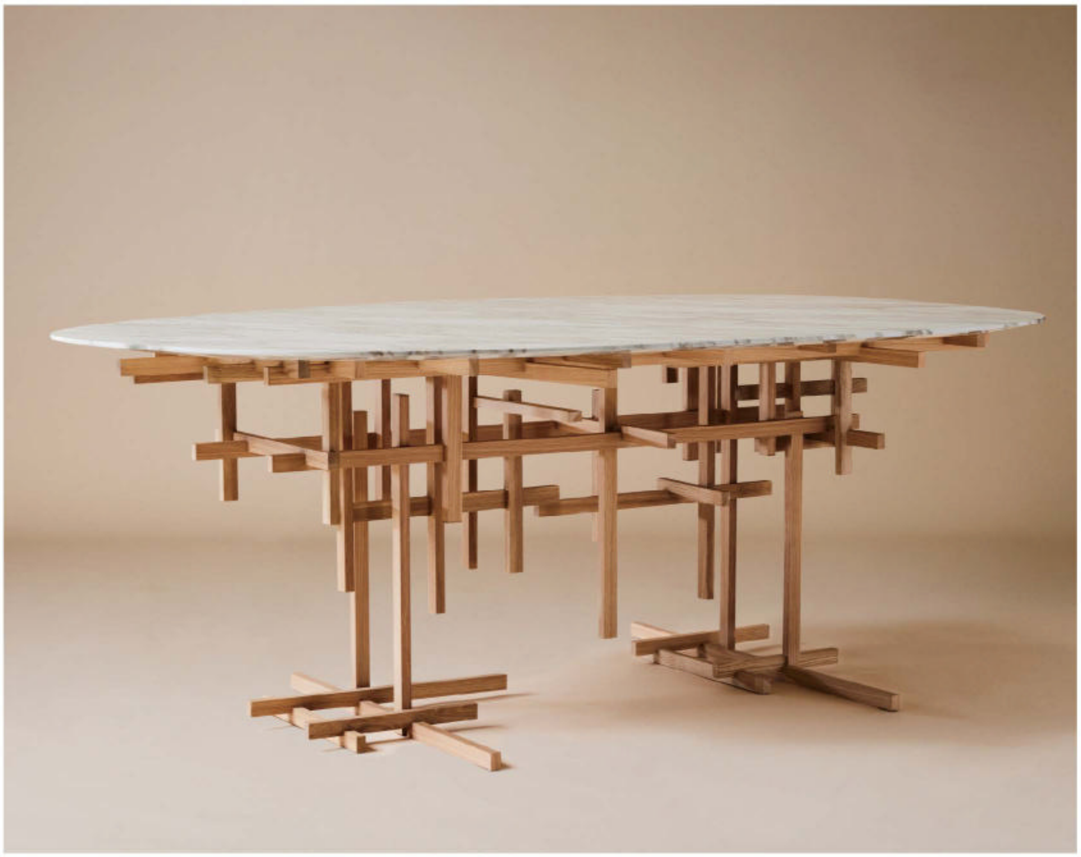
925 Scarpa Lounge Chair

INTRODUCED IN 1966 by the office of husband-and-wife designers Afra and Tobia Scarpa, the 925 Scarpa lounge chair, rereleased through Danish brand Karakter, captures the timeless beauty of Italian modernist design. No wonder the armless lounger's sculptural combination of elegant curves and a stout, angular frame earned it a spot in the permanent collection of the Museum of Modern Art in New York City. *$4,595*

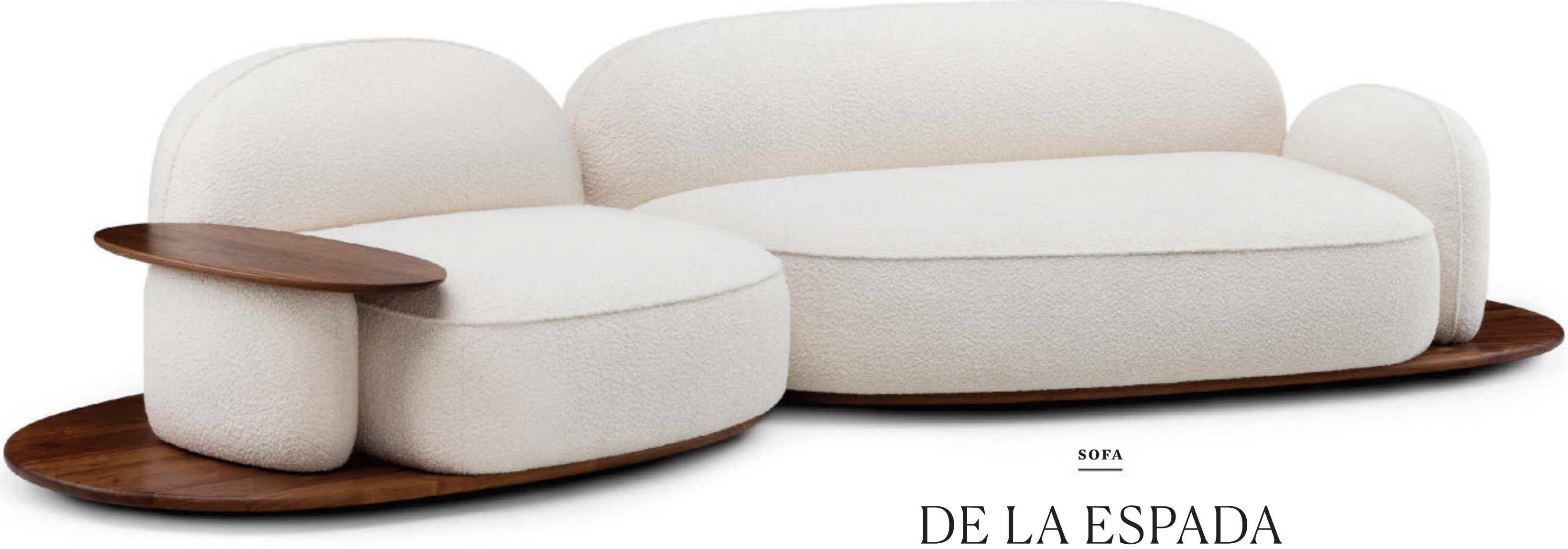
COLLECTION

AMAN INTERIORS

Migumi by Kengo Kuma



AMAN, KNOWN FOR its international roster of hotels and resorts, launched Aman Interiors at the end of 2023 as a way for clients to bring the brand's urbane design sensibility into their homes. In addition to its Foundations collection of furniture, Aman is partnering with leaders in the design industry to produce limited-edition pieces. The first such release, Migumi, is by renowned Japanese architect Kengo Kuma and includes a dining table and chair. The material palette—white oak, Calacatta marble, steel—is rooted in environmental connection, and the production (Migumi is handmade in Higashikawa) places a premium on craftsmanship. *Price upon request*



SOFA

DE LA ESPADA

Azores Collection

ENVISIONED AS ISLANDS by designer Luca Nichetto for De La Espada, the Azores collection features a configurable set of five sofas and four small tables meant to suit myriad spaces. Each component is named for an island in the Portuguese archipelago, with soft curves that invite long afternoons of lounging. Available in a range of upholstery options—velvet, leather, and fabric—the Azores sofas sit on peekaboo timber bases that double down on the island imagery and help ground the assemblage in any decor. *Starting at $11,770*

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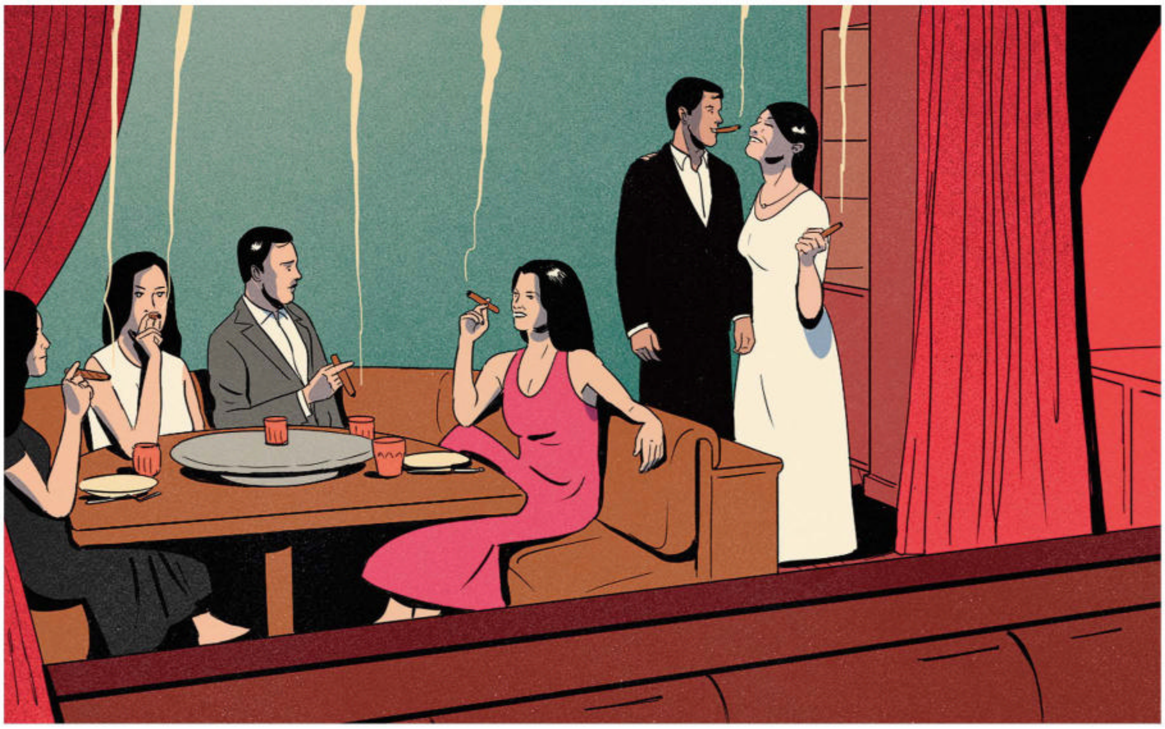

THE BIG IDEA

A WELL-LIGHTED PLACE

ON AUGUST 11, 2023, a group of like-minded guests in Santa Barbara, Calif., watched the Perseids meteor shower streak across the night sky. It was a stellar display that happened to coincide with the launch of the Cohiba Experience at the Ritz-Carlton Bacara. Fittingly, the event marked the reopening of a smoker-friendly venue that had been snuffed out by the pandemic.

Call them cigar bars, terraces, or smoking lounges, these spaces—which first flourished during the cigar boom of the 1990s—are a modern (and more inclusive) answer to the chummy gentleman's clubs of the 19th century. While many shuttered during the Covid-induced lockdowns of 2020, the past year has seen an increase in high-end debuts both in the United States and abroad. The spike reflects a pent-up desire for the social atmosphere that comes with enjoying a good cigar. And the basic appeal is self-evident: an enviable selection of premium cigars, and the premium spirits to match, in comfortably luxe settings that range from Victorian dens to upscale man caves.

In February, Macanudo more than doubled its portfolio of such sought-after boîtes by establishing clubs in Jakarta, Taipei, and Shreveport, La., which joined existing lounges in New York City and Kuala Lumpur. "By opening cigar lounges in strategic locations across the globe, we're not just offering special places for enjoying handmade cigars," says Régis Broersma, chief commercial officer of Scandinavian Tobacco Group, which owns Cohiba and Macanudo. "We're cultivating unparalleled experiences with our brands." And since 2022, El Septimo has opened 35 lounges globally, including recent locations in Las Vegas, Denver, and Erbil, Iraq. More are planned in Europe and the Middle East.

Put simply, cigar smokers like hanging out. But they aren't the only winners in this scenario: More people going to cigar bars naturally correlates to, well, more cigar sales. "Brick-and-mortar [retailers] need any advantage to compete with mail order companies, and offering spirits is the best way to get people in," says Michael Frey, who owns the Casa Fuente, Cigarbox, and Montecristo bars in Las Vegas. Provide a convivial atmosphere—the more, the merrier—and some of the finer things in life, and the current trend suggests customers will find you. Which may, of course, push the standards for service even higher. As Frey puts it, "Customers are looking for the complete experience."

ILLUSTRATION BY Emmanuel Polanco

ARTISTIC

LeROY NEIMAN

2023 Collector's Edition

WITH HIS HANDLEBAR mustache and ever-present Cuban cigar, the late LeRoy Neiman was widely acclaimed for his expressionistic paintings depicting the good life. He was such a constant fixture in Hugh Hefner's culture-shaking magazine that there was a *Playboy* by Don Diego LeRoy Neiman cigar in 1997. But this 6 x 52 *toro,* hand-rolled in the J. C. Newman Cigar Company's Ybor City, Fla., factory, is probably closer to what the fabled artist actually smoked. With its Ecuadoran "Havana Rosado" wrapper, Florida sun-grown binder, and a filler blend of Nicaraguan and American tobaccos, its flavor offers a palate full of Earl Grey tea laced with cream, white bread, and fruit compote. A colorful lithograph of Neiman's 1978 painting *Irish-American Bar* adorns the inside of the box's lid and a band that, unfortunately, covers up most of the wrapper. But that can be forgiven: Profits will be donated to furthering art education in Tampa's public schools. *$20*

PHOTOGRAPHY BY Janelle Jones STYLING BY Marie-Yan Morvan

Robb Report *in focus*

JACK'S BAY CLUB, ELEUTHERA, BAHAMAS

jacksbayclub.com

An "Oasis for the Soul," Jack's Bay is a 1,200-acre luxuriously-amenitized private community with four miles of pink sand beaches on Eleuthera Island in the Bahamas. A once-in-the-world pairing of the Golden Bear and Tiger, it features an existing 10-hole Tiger Woods golf course dubbed "The Playground," and a forthcoming 18-hole Nicklaus Heritage™ course.

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LATE HOUR
BORDEAUX
CHATEAU ZAYA
LIMITED EDITION

SHORT SMOKE

DAVIDOFF

Winston Churchill Late Hour Petite Panetelas

IT DOESN'T TAKE much to light this 4 x 38 petit panatela, yet it packs a mouthful of flavor, making it perfect for those times when you want a short smoke to accompany a cocktail—or while waiting for the valet to bring your car around. Flavors of dark chocolate, black pepper, and citrus come hand-rolled in an Ecuadoran wrapper, Mexican binder, and Dominican and Nicaraguan filler. Five of these diminutive smokes are packed in an elegant tin that easily fits into a jacket's interior pocket. *$10.10*

WINE-FRIENDLY

EL SEPTIMO

Culinary Art Collection—Bordeaux

ALTHOUGH COGNACS, ports, and whiskies have been the preferred beverages to pair with cigars, we've long advocated adding certain wines to the mix. Zaya Younan, who owns four French vineyards as well as the El Septimo cigar brand, has come to the same conclusion. His recently introduced Culinary Art Collection includes four cigars blended to pair with French (Bordeaux), Italian (Tuscan), Spanish (Rioja), and Japanese (Nigori) wines. Of these, our favorite is the Bordeaux, a 6 x 60 *gordo,* which we paired, appropriately enough, with a 2020 Chateau Zaya Grand Cru from Saint Émilion. The Bordeaux cigar, with its Ecuadoran Connecticut wrapper, Ecuadoran Habano binder, and Dominican, Ecuadoran, Nicaraguan, and Brazilian fillers, was of a comparable medium strength, with a subtle sweet spiciness. It would make an ideal after-lunch or late-afternoon smoke—with a glass of Bordeaux, of course. *$18*

TE AMO
DON PEPIN
Pepin
NICARAGUA

REIMAGINED

TE AMO

THIS ISN'T YOUR grandfather's Mexican puro—or even your father's. Altadis's famed Te Amo cigar, beloved from the 1970s through the '90s, fell on hard times in recent years, even though tobaccos from Mexico's San Andrés Valley have gotten more popular. But with the ascendant rise of tequila and mezcal, the time was ripe for a little reimagining. In February, Alejandro Turrent—whose family factory has always made Te Amo—introduced a newly redesigned box and band (omitting the hyphen in the brand's original name, for one thing) and a reformulation of the tobaccos used. The new version is a medium-strength smoke with a well-aged Habano San Andrés wrapper, a five-year-old Negro San Andrés binder, and an all-Habano San Andrés filler that carries a subtle sweetness throughout the smoke. Three sizes are offered: 6 x 60 magnum, 5 x 54 *robusto,* and 6 x 52 *toro*. We'd suggest pairing the *toro*—a size that originated with Te Amo—with a Casa Noble blanco tequila. *$10.39 to $12.71*

THROWBACK

MY FATHER CIGARS

Don Pepin Vintage Edition

LAST YEAR MARKED the 20th anniversary of Don Pepin Garcia's cigars, handmade in Miami. To commemorate the occasion, Garcia's company, My Father Cigars, redesigned the 1930s-style Cuban band it used for its very first releases. It's wrapped around a very heady, earthy puro that's available in *robusto, toro, toro gordo, corona gorda*, and *petit robusto* sizes. With its Habano Corojo 99 wrapper and Nicaraguan binder and fillers, all grown on Don Pepin's farms, it offers a strength somewhere between medium-plus and full and has a meaty but elegant countenance. An ideal early-evening to late-night smoke, it pairs perfectly with Glenmorangie's newly reimagined Extremely Rare 18 Year Old single malt. *$11.50 to $14.50*

HARVESTED

PLASENCIA

Cosecha 151

THIS CIGAR WAS produced with the Plasencia family's 151st *cosecha,* or harvest, from the especially bountiful 2016 season. Considering that they own some of largest and finest tobacco farms in Honduras, it's no surprise that the puros they've produced are extraordinary. Indeed, this cigar is the personification of what Honduran tobacco is all about. The rich, earthy flavor evokes a muscular spiciness with a bit of tamed ruggedness underneath. Three uniquely named sizes are offered: La Música (5 x 50), San Diego (5¾ x 46), and our favorite, La Tradicíon (5⅞ x 54). *$13.30 to $16*

TRIBUTE

FUENTE

Eye of the Bull

THIS SHORT, SQUAT cigar—with its ultra-oily vintage Cameroonian wrapper and its Dominican binder and filler—is the newest release in Fuente's Don Carlos line. (The offering is how Carlos "Carlito" Fuente Jr. honors his late father, who died in 2016.) Aside from its unusual size, the most striking physical aspect of this *robusto* is the dark "eye" of tobacco crowning the cap. Normally, cigar rollers are careful to match the cap's color to the shade of the wrapper. Not so with Eye of the Bull, although this distinguishing mark must be clipped off to enjoy its deep flavor, which lasts 35 to 40 minutes should you (however begrudgingly) remove the large, ornate band to eke out a few extra moments of enjoyment. *$12.80*

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SPLURGE

FUENTE Y PADRÓN

Legends

TWO OF THE TOBACCO realm's most prominent families—Fuente and Padrón—announced in 2020 that they'd teamed up to create a pair of special cigars, both inspired by the patriarchs of the respective companies. But in a unique twist, Carlos "Carlito" Fuente Jr. would make the models honoring José Orlando Padrón, while Jorge Padrón would produce the ones inspired by Carlos Arturo Fuente Sr. Unfortunately, numerous delays prevented it from becoming a reality—until now.

Neither family will reveal the tobaccos used for their 7 x 50 Churchills (a box-press by Padrón, a *parejo* by Fuente), but an educated guess suggests the Padrón cigar honoring Fuente Sr. is a Nicaraguan puro, while the Fuente for José Padrón contains tobaccos from Chateau de la Fuente. All profits go to charitable foundations, making Legends not only an enticing investment but also a meaningful smoke. *$178*

RR1 by Robb Report

PRIVATE MEMBERSHIP CLUB

el VINYET
LA AURORA
1903
120
ANNIVERSARY EDITION
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
ANNIVERSARY EDITION

“EL JEFE” ROLLED

PDR

El Vinyet Cuvee Especial

THE SKILL OF PDR master blender Abe Flores is on display in this full-bodied, sophisticated smoke. The matte-textured Ecuadoran Habano Oscuro wrapper is patterned with darker shades of oiliness, suggesting abundant flavor. Flores personally selected the Indonesian binder and the Dominican Habano and Pennsylvania broadleaf fillers, which are rolled using the complex *entubado* technique. Moreover, Flores bunched the first 10,000 cigars himself before giving them to his top *roleros* to apply the lustrous wrappers. Out of the box, they’re mostly obscured from view by gold-foil sleeves, but you’ll end up removing those before lighting up this glass-smooth smoke. It’s available in five sizes: *robusto,* wide Churchill, *belicoso fino, doble corona,* and an impressive *grand salomon. $8.55 to $38.18*

ANNIVERSARY

LA AURORA

120th Anniversary Parejos

THE OLDEST CIGAR company in the Dominican Republic turned 120 last year. To celebrate, it produced a Dominican puro, with its oily Habano ’92 wrapper grown on a farm owned by a fifth-generation member of the León family, which founded the operation. It also has a Dominican Olor binder and a filler blend of Dominican Piloto, Cubano, Olor, and Corojo tobaccos. The result is a full-bodied smoke packed with chocolate, cocoa, and an intriguing touch of citrus and sweet, stewed apples. It’s made in four sizes: *toro, gran toro,* Churchill, and *robusto.* They’re all worthy of being paired with a strong whiskey, yet they’re smooth enough to be smoked right down to the band. *$14 to $16.80*

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Robb Report

GEAR

By Josh Condon, Robert Ross, and Abigail Montanez

THE BIG IDEA

WEARABLES GET BUZZY

WEARABLE TECHNOLOGY dates back to the abacus rings of 17th-century China, early precursors to the modern digital iteration, the calculator watch, released by Pulsar in 1975. In 2009 the introduction of the Fitbit tracker ushered in an era of wearable machines—ones that could not only calculate but measure as well. In the intervening years, a host of competitors hit the market, from Whoop to Oura Ring to Apple Watch, and while the designs, interfaces, related apps, and target users differ slightly between each—some are more fitness-focused, others prioritize wellness or productivity—each remixes the same basic functionality: recording biometric data such as heart rate, blood-oxygen levels, sleep patterns, electrodermal activity, steps taken, UV exposure, and the like. Which is to say, all of these devices can provide concrete data related to how you're feeling at any given moment, but none of them can actually do anything about it.

Enter the next generation of wearables, devices that can not only monitor your state of body and mind but also intervene. The Apollo, from Apollo Neuro, tracks everything your smartwatch does (and is roughly the same size) and also emits a range of audio-vibrational frequencies specially tuned to your central nervous system to help you calm down, wake up, recover from a workout, fall asleep, and more. It's the only scientifically validated consumer wellness wearable on the market—its inventor, Dave Rabin, M.D., Ph.D., is both a neuroscientist and a board-certified psychiatrist—and was born out of research on treatment-resistant-trauma therapy. The effect feels similar to a cat purring on your chest.

Rabin describes the Apollo, and the others like it that are sure to follow, as "third-generation wearables" and notes how the screenless gadget (control comes via the app) is the rare piece of technology that can actually *reduce* stress. "Second-gen wearables give you all this really granular detail," he tells *Robb Report,* "but if you're not a doctor and can't interpret the data, it can be more stressful than not having that information in the first place." What really excites Rabin, though, is how the already cutting-edge technology is about to radically leapfrog again, thanks to artificial intelligence. "My wife would wake up every night at 3 a.m., so we trained Apollo to track her sleep quality and identify when she started to stir. We then leveraged predictive A.I. to anticipate when she was about to come awake—at which point the Apollo kicked in with a gentle wave that rocked her back to sleep, preventing the wake-up before it happened. And it totally worked! It was a problem she had for years, and we solved it."

ILLUSTRATION BY Emmanuel Polanco

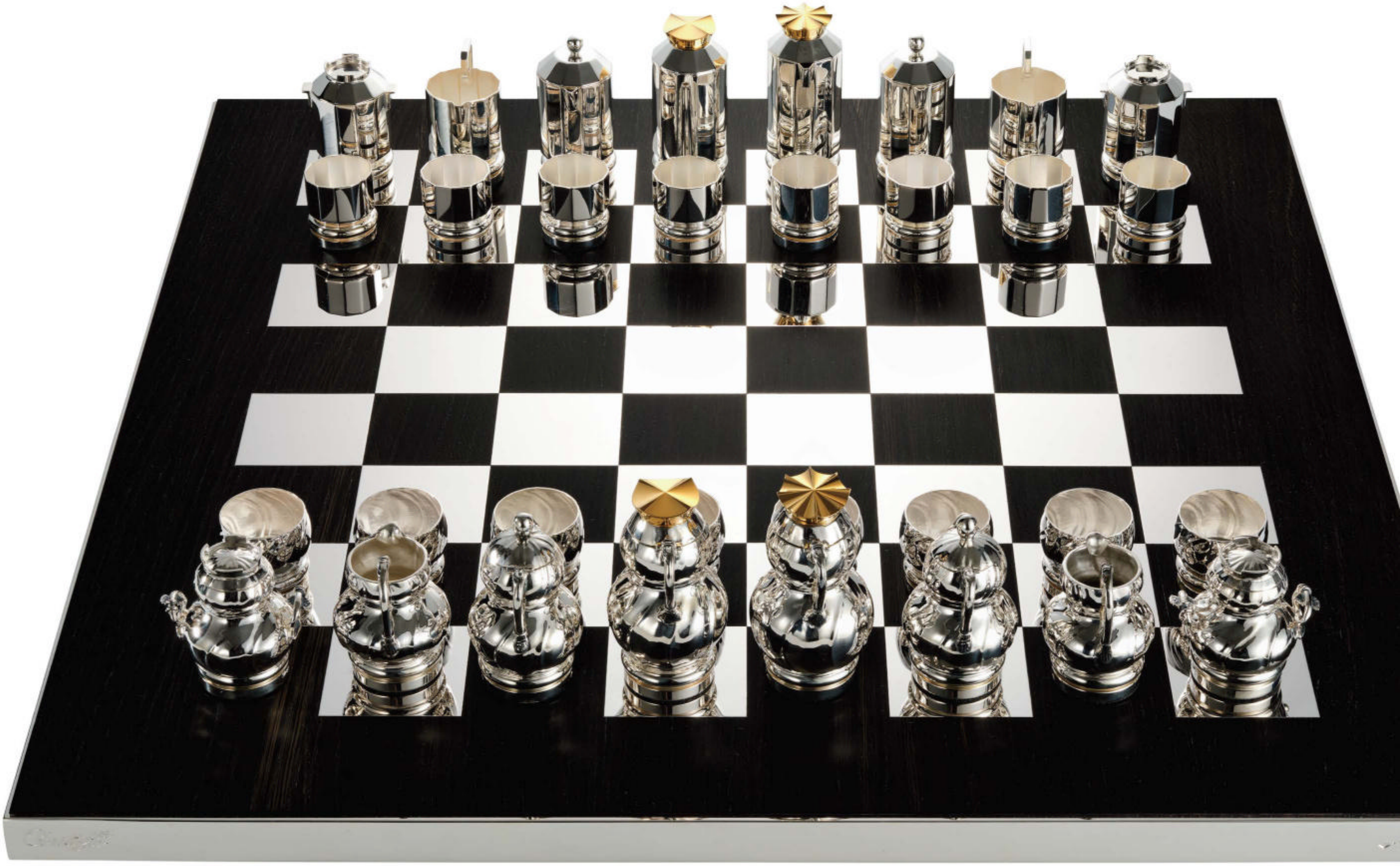
GAME

CHRISTOFLE

Duel des Thés

GIVEN THAT THE contemporary hallmark embossed on Christofle's fine silverware is a knight, a luxe chess set from the 194-year-old French tableware company—the first game it has ever produced—feels apropos. Duel des Thés is a clever nod to brand history, elegantly rendered in fossilized oak, vermeil, and mirror-polished sterling silver by Christofle's Haute Orfèvrerie workshop.

The name translates to "duel of teas," which is precisely what transpires from the opening gambit, pitting the house's famous Art Nouveau and Art Deco tea sets against one another by replacing key pieces with teapots, creamers, cups, and sugar bowls. Artisans make each component—plus all the molds and other tools used to produce them—by hand at the brand's factory in Normandy. The boards are assembled by Jean-Brieuc Chevalier, a cabinetmaker from Angers, who inlays the wood with reflective sterling-silver squares. Truly, a game beautiful enough to let everyone feel like a winner. *$250,000*



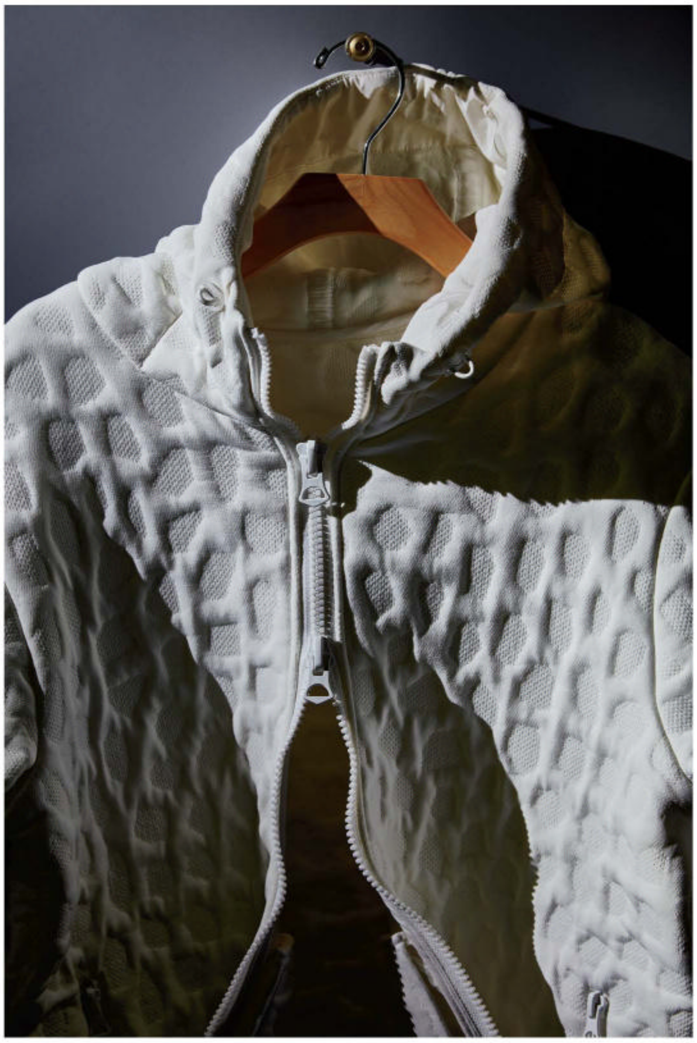
STREAMING LOUDSPEAKER

DUTCH & DUTCH

8C

PLUG AC AND ETHERNET cables into these powered streaming loudspeakers from Rotterdam-based Dutch & Dutch, commandeer an iPhone or iPad, and you have a room filled with music—reproduced without excuses to audiophiles. This beautifully built stand-mounted loudspeaker packs a wallop, delivering a full-range frequency response from 30 Hz to 20 kHz. Inside the finely finished solid-oak cabinet is a complement of four drivers: two eight-inch, high-excursion subwoofers, an eight-inch midrange, and a one-inch alloy dome tweeter, respectively powered by built-in 500 W, 250 W, and 250 W Class D amplifiers. Also on board are high-end streaming, DACs, and DSP (Digital Signal Processing), which fine-tunes frequency anomalies caused by the room, allowing the speaker to be placed very close to a rear wall—a plus wherever space is at a premium. While ideal for near-field listening or as studio monitors, these small speakers can fill larger rooms with gusto. *$14,950 per pair*

VOLLEBAK: JANELLE JONES



KIT

VOLLEBAK

Mars Hoodie

HIGH-TECH, future-focused Vollebak makes a range of head-scratchingly clever gear, from an Apocalypse Jacket that's fireproof to 2,370 degrees Fahrenheit, includes nearly two dozen pockets, and can convert into a sleeping bag, to its Full Metal Jacket, made largely of antimicrobial copper and developed for mass interplanetary travel. (Known to kill both bacteria and viruses, the element could help stop the spread of disease in the closed environment of a spaceship.) Given all the brainpower and problem-solving that goes into its gear, the brand's most surprising attribute might be its utter wearability.

And no item is more plushly beckoning than the double-layered, 3-D-knitted Mars Hoodie, made by a machine designed to build bedding. The sculptural and ultrasoft sweatshirt has the pleasing density of a memory-foam mattress, the heft of an antianxiety blanket (it weighs in at over two and a half pounds), and a textured fabric that resembles the heavily cratered surface of the Red Planet. It's even embedded with antimicrobial silver microparticles, just in case you feel like taking a quick jaunt into space (which, remember, is an actual tourist destination now). *$795*

LOUDSPEAKER

SONUS FABER

Stradivari G2

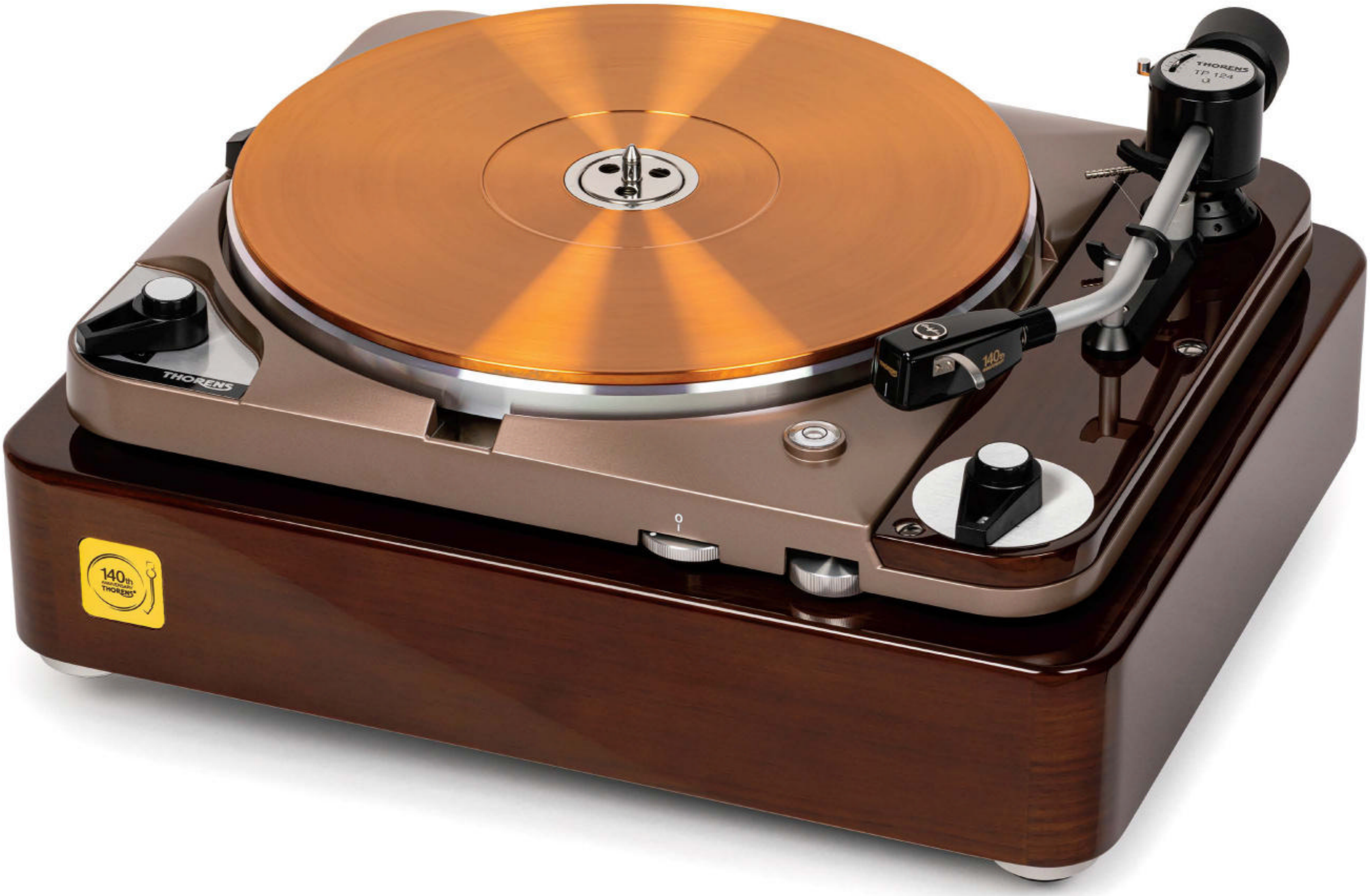
SONUS FABER'S ORIGINAL Stradivari from the early 2000s established a high-water mark for sonic accuracy in a loudspeaker whose drop-dead gorgeous cabinetmaking reflected the DNA of an Italian company from the same region as famous luthiers Stradivarius and Guarneri. The G2 takes a leap forward with its even more natural presentation of detail, tone, and timbre from top to bottom. Notable is the cabinet shape, much wider than it is deep and responsible for this speaker's organic, natural, and full-bodied sound. A pair of 10-inch woofers go down to 25 Hz, while the six-inch Neodymium magnet midrange transducer handles the crucial midrange—from 220 Hz to 2,200 Hz, this driver is the speaker's heart and soul, aided by a one-inch soft-dome tweeter. Although relatively sensitive at 92 dB, a high-current amplifier with at least 100 watts will go a long way toward making the Stradivari G2 sing. *$50,000 per pair*

HEADPHONES

MEZE

Elite Tungsten

FROM ROMANIA, the $3,000 Meze Empyrean II garnered our praise as a headphone with electrostatic-like transparency and the low-end of a big dynamic-driver. The secret of these open-back headphones' accurate sound is a proprietary planar driver developed in collaboration with Ukrainian acoustics firm Rinaro Isodynamics; the Isodynamic Hybrid Array transducer emulates the shape of the human ear, with a frequency response extending from a subterranean 8 Hz to a unheard-of 112,000 Hz. (We mean that literally—it's beyond the range of human hearing.) The natural, fatigue-free sonic presentation can keep a listener enthralled for hours. We ended our review of the Empyrean II asking, "How much better can headphones get?" The Meze Elite Tungsten presents a subtle and refined answer, with a tungsten frame featuring the durable, stonelike texture of Cerakote—a reminder that rare materials and fine craftsmanship are the purview of high-end audio as much as of watchmaking or coachbuilding. An extra helping of midrange finesse nudges the Elite into flagship-headphone territory. *$4,000*



STEFAN RÖHLER

VINYL PLAYBACK

THORENS

TD 124 DD 140th Anniversary (with Ortofon SPU 140th Anniversary Cartridge)

SOME DESIGNS SIMPLY can't be improved upon: Park most new supercars next to a 58-year-old Lamborghini Miura and chances are the old-timer will command more attention than the upstart. Consider this Thorens turntable to be the best of both worlds. The TD 124 DD revisits a timeless product on the event of its 140th Anniversary Edition, adding a copper platter and other refinements (both mechanical and aesthetic) while delivering performance that eclipses most new turntables. It looks nearly identical to the original TD 124 made from 1957 to 1967 (good news) while differing by using a direct-drive motor rather than idler-drive to rotate the platter (also good news). Its tonearm, appearing identical but much improved, uses a special 140th anniversary Ortofon SPU moving-coil cartridge with silver wire that brings overflowing life, with force and impact, to LP playback. *$12,999 (cartridge sold separately)*

INTEGRATED AMPLIFIER

DAN D'AGOSTINO

Momentum MxV

AMONG THE MOST ambitious audio products of the year is D'Agostino's Momentum MxV Integrated Amplifier, which combines a line-stage preamp, stereo amp, and optional phono stage and streaming DAC in a single-chassis unit whose monumental appearance is as remarkable as its performance. Just add speakers, and maybe a turntable, to build a stereo system that will satisfy any (reasonable) audiophile. Compared to the best separates, integrated amps are typically a significant compromise—short on power, sonic finesse, or both. In fairness, most are also 10 to 20 times less expensive than the Momentum, whose combination of massive power supplies and overengineered amplification delivers 250 wpc at 8 ohms, using audio circuitry nearly indistinguishable from the Momentum Series separates. Whether used to stream digital sources or as the nucleus of a vinyl rig, this integrated amp makes a compelling argument that, price notwithstanding, less is truly more. *$80,000, including phono stage and streaming DAC*

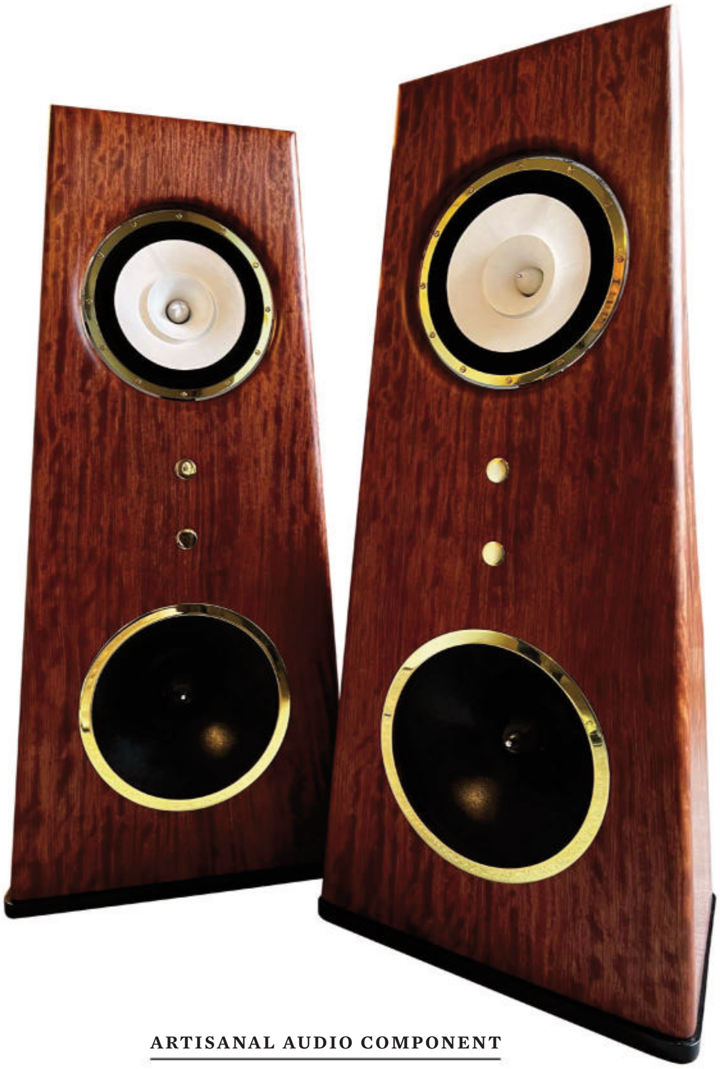
HOME PROJECTOR

LEICA

Cine 1

PROJECTOR TECHNOLOGY has progressed leaps and bounds since the faded, fuzzy images of old, but the depth and clarity provided by Leica's ultra-short-throw Cine 1 is still remarkable to behold. An ultrabright, RGB laser-lighting system and Leica Summicron lens are housed in a sleek aluminum case (the remote is made of the same material) with softly rounded edges and an expansive wraparound grille—all the better to enjoy the remarkably robust built-in sound system, which boasts a pair of 2 x 25W speakers, thumping bass, impressive dynamic range, and Dolby Atmos support.

Thoughtful touches include adjustable legs and a motorized dust cover, but the picture, naturally, steals the show. With a native resolution of 1,920 x 1,080 pixels (4K is supported via DLP XPR technology), staggering contrast ratio, and a claimed peak brightness of 3,000 lumens, the laser lighting provides a huge range of colors, including rich, deep blacks, and remains equally crisp at the edges of the image. Leica actually produces two separate machines for the U.S. market, one for use with screens of exactly 100 inches and another for 120-inch displays. Both come with three HDMI inputs (including one with soundbar support) that receive all the main dynamic range formats, including Dolby Vision. *$8,995 (100-inch screen), $9,495 (120-inch screen)*

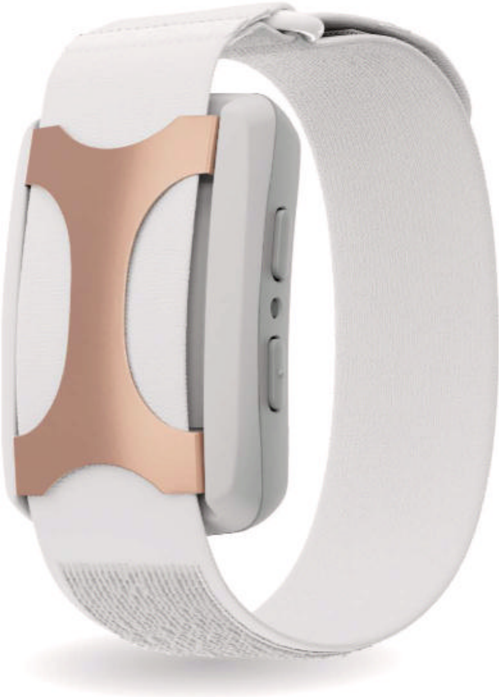


ARTISANAL AUDIO COMPONENT

SONGER

S2 Loudspeakers

KEN SONGER IS a former software engineer who has devoted the past 10-plus years to developing two very special loudspeakers, the S1 (see the 2024 *Robb Report* Audio Awards) and the larger S2. The transducers are powered by extremely potent field-coil magnets, each weighing nearly 30 pounds, and Songer hand-builds the cones for each from Japanese paper. The result is music reproduced with lightning-fast transients, transparency, and timbral accuracy. Remarkably, this full-range driver covers a span of 20 kHz down to 30 Hz, and the S2 employs an additional 15-inch bass driver to supplement frequencies below 130 Hz to 30 Hz. Weighing 150 pounds, the 47-inch-tall open-baffle cabinet is constructed in a choice of hardwoods, and both drivers are embellished with jewellike brass and aluminum details. With 93 dB efficiency, the S2 is a perfect match with low-power tube amps. An overall tour de force of technology and obsessive craftsmanship. *$55,000 per pair*



WEARABLE

APOLLO NEURO

Apollo

THE CURRENT CROP of wearables—Whoop, Oura Ring, Apple Watch, and the like—are shockingly good at tracking biometric data, everything from daily steps to blood-oxygen levels to heart-rate variability. Which is nice if you know how to parse the numbers, but wouldn't it be better if those devices could actually *do* something to help regulate your physical and emotional states?

That's precisely why Dave Rabin, M.D., Ph.D., invented the Apollo, a wearable that uses a range of vibrational frequencies to help you relax, perk up, de-stress, recover from a workout, fall asleep, etc. Born from neuroscience research at the University of Pittsburgh (Rabin is a neuroscientist as well as a board-certified psychiatrist) and backed by clinical research, the screenless device pairs with a slick and intuitive app, which creates a customized 24-hour schedule to provide energy when you need it and calm when you don't; with use over time, your central nervous system adapts, leading to improved sleep, cardiovascular metrics, stress management, and more. It sounds like science fiction, but we're happy (and amazed) to report that it actually works. *$350*

SÉAMUS
Robb Report
672
NAPA VALLEY
WINE CLUB

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BE ONE OF A FEW.

Join the club and receive rare red wines from boutique Napa Valley producers, **curated by Robb Report editors.**

THE DUEL

“Money can’t buy you happiness,” rocker David Lee Roth once noted, “but it can buy you a yacht big enough to pull up right alongside it.” Which is all well and good until another, *bigger* yacht pulls up next to yours, then poaches your captain and half the crew. In a more-is-more world, the billionaires obviously come out ahead—or do they? As we’ve seen with a few high-profile meltdowns from extremely high-net-worth public figures, a Scrooge McDuck–size vault of cash doesn’t exactly guarantee bliss (or perspective). The tension between the two groups was perfectly summed up by another music legend, the Notorious B.I.G., in the title of his 1997 banger: “Mo Money Mo Problems.” **Adam Morganstern**

Millionaires vs. Billionaires

STACKING PAPER

In dollar bills, a million bucks would reach 358 feet into the air—nearly as tall as the Miami-Dade County Courthouse.

In singles, $1 billion gets you to 68 miles above the Earth. Jeff Bezos’s Blue Origin flights don’t even go that high.

SQUAD SIZE

There are **59.4 million** millionaires around the world—slightly more than the population of Italy.

2,781. Spinal Tap has had more drummers.

WHERE DO THEY LIVE?

New York City has 349,500 millionaire residents, the highest number of any municipality in the world—and one for every 24 people in the Big Apple.

Over two percent of the world’s billionaires live in the Bay Area, which explains those Bi-Rite prices.

AVAILABLE BALANCES

Some estimates clock global millionaires’ combined wealth at **$208 trillion**.

According to the 2024 *Forbes* World’s Billionaires List, the whole group is only worth around **$14.2 trillion.**

COULD BLOW THE WHOLE WAD ON

A Jacob & Co. Mystery Tourbillon watch. The reference set with diamonds and yellow sapphires costs exactly $1 million before taxes.

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**If you consider the Ottawa Senators a “prosports franchise.”*

ON THE SOCIALS

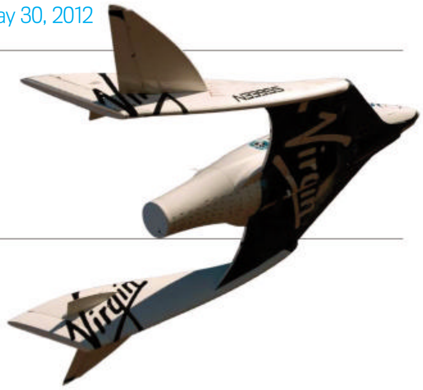
“The first million is the hardest.”
—**Drake**, via Twitter (now X), 6:14 a.m., May 30, 2012

“The first billion is a helluva lot harder.”
– **T. Boone Pickens**, via Twitter (now X), 8 p.m., May 30, 2012

HOBBIES

Golf, wine collecting, competing for the right private schools, around-the-world air cruises, crypto speculation, snagging reservations at Dorsia.

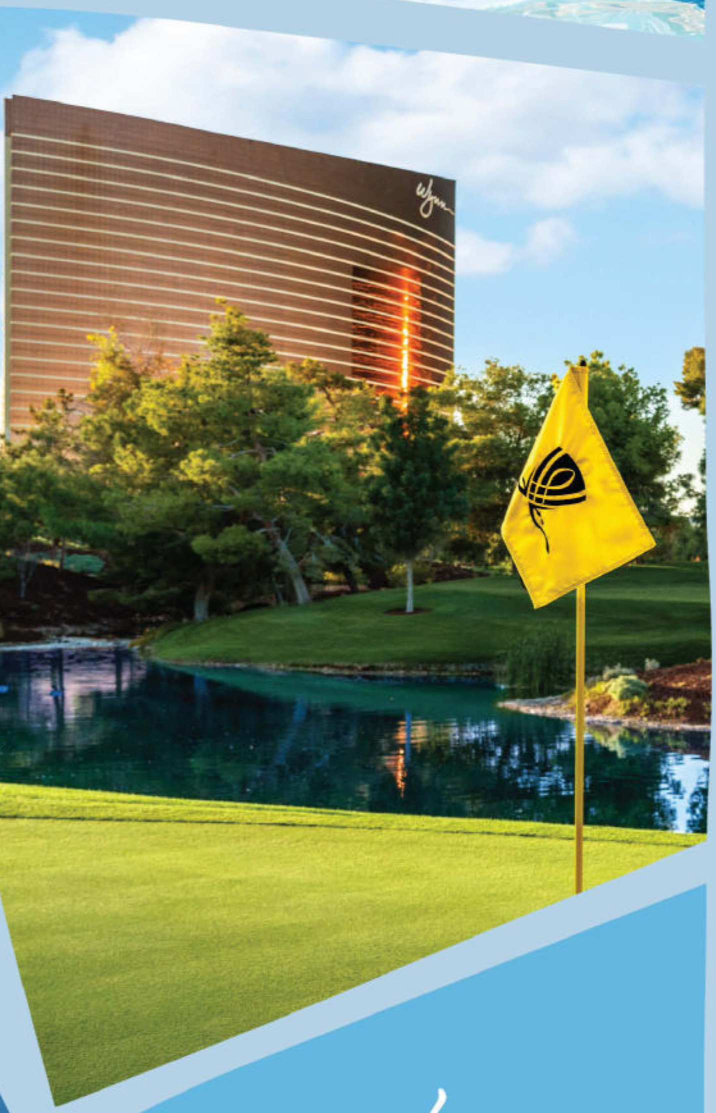
Polo, biohacking, competing for the America’s Cup, space exploration, stress-testing democracy.



LEAST FAVORITE WORD

“Who?” | “No.”

STACKS OF MONEY AND STATUE OF LIBERTY: STOCK ADOBE; GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE: LEO VISIONS/UNSPLASH; HOCKEY PLAYERS: RICH GAGNON/GETTY IMAGES; PICKENS: ETHAN MILLER/GETTY IMAGES; VIRGIN GALACTIC: MARK GREENBERG/VIRGIN GALACTIC/GETTY IMAGES; GOLFER: COURTNEY COOK/UNSPLASH; DRAKE: CARMEN MANDATO/GETTY IMAGES.



Forbes TRAVEL GUIDE

Take a minute to take it all in.

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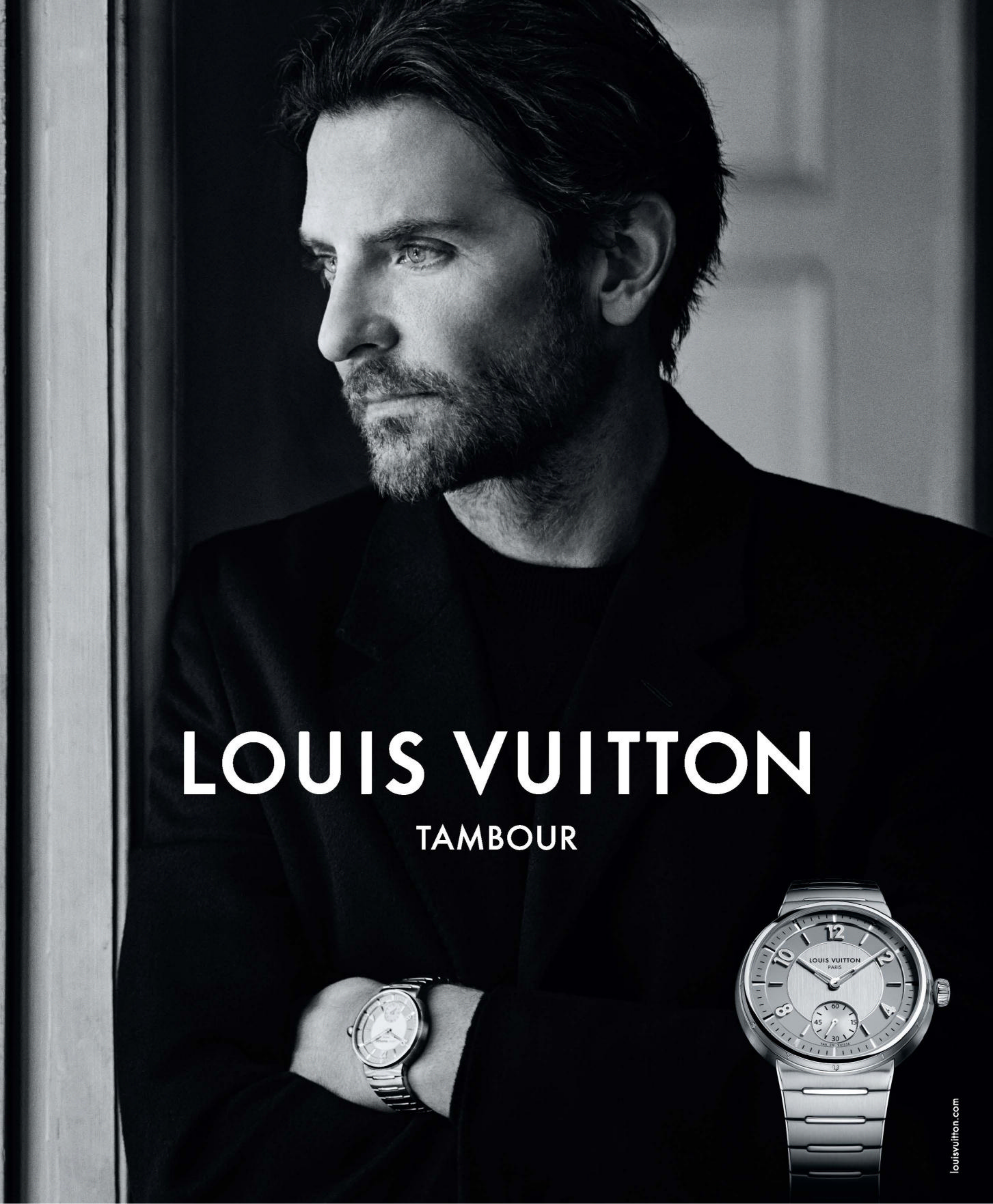
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